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THE NEWSPAPER FOR MARGATE, RAMSGATE, BROADSTAIRS AND DISTRICT

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# NIGHT FLIGHTS TOO NOISY FOR TAKE-OFF

WHAT'S ON & WATCH  
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**QUESTIONS:** Archant KOS Media readers quiz Labour leader Ed Miliband. Search 'Miliband'

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## CHALK ON THE WILD SIDE

'Slim Father Christmas' is just one of the examples of chalk graffiti captured by Margate artist Richard Epps in his new book *Margate Forever*. Having only recently finished converting his garage into a studio, Mr Epps hopes the enhanced photos will inspire local galleries to take an interest in his work, which he thinks may include work by infamous graffiti artist Banksy.

• FULL STORY SEE PAGE 3

■ BY FLORENCE TENNENT

AN INDEPENDENT review of Manston airport's night noise assessment has found proposed levels of night-time flying to be unacceptably high.

Thanet council commissioned an independent review of the assessment included with Manston airport's application for scheduled night-flying to clarify the number of expected flights

Public consultation on the plans, which were received in September, was postponed until the results were announced.

The original noise assessment, carried out by Bickerdike Allen Partners, suggested an annual noise quota limit of 1,995 by 1,081 flights between 11.30pm and 6am.

It proposed a sound-insulation scheme for houses exposed to more than 57dB of average night-time noise to mitigate the impacts on residents in the surrounding area.

The review, by independent specialist Bureau Veritas, stated that the predicted number of people likely to be exposed to significant levels of average night-time noise is not sufficiently justified by the number of passengers that are forecast to benefit from the proposals.

The report said: "Significant numbers of people living in the vicinity of Manston airport are likely to experience noise impact due to forecast operations in 2018. The proposed quota count of 1,995 is too high to offer adequate protection."

Bureau Veritas recommended a limit of just

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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**EDITOR:** Dave Mairs 01303 817022  
**GROUP EDITOR:** Gary Wright 01303 817032  
**WEBSITE:** www.yourthanet.co.uk  
**TELEPHONE ADVERTISING:** 01303 817110

**FAX:** (Advertising) 01303 817002  
**TELEPHONE DISTRIBUTION:** 01303 817070  
**EMAIL:** Editorial: yourthanet@kosmedia.co.uk. Sales: advertising@kosmedia.co.uk  
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**SQUARE DEAL:** Artist's vision of how the Arlington site Tesco supermarket could look

# Arlington plans bring landmark 'into the fold'

■ BY FLORENCE TENNENT

DETAILED plans for the renovation of the Arlington complex in Margate are to be put to Thanet council before Christmas.

The application, by developers Freshwater, proposes a 50,000 sq ft Tesco store on the derelict car park at the southern end of the site, as well as extensive work to the Arlington House tower block.

As well as staining the building back to its original off-white colour, installing a cap and cleaning cradle on the roof, introducing exterior lighting and fitting tinted double glazed windows to hide the protest signs, the plans involve extensive work to the interior, including new lifts, refurbishing communal corridors and remodelling the entrance and atrium.

However, original consultations in March had suggested the full cost of the work on the high-rise would be paid by residents, up to £20,000 per flat. Since then Freshwater has agreed to pay for the windows, reducing costs per flat to between £6,500 and £8,500, depending on

the size of the apartment.

Freshwater is also offering a loan with the option to defer payments until the flat is sold.

The 85 parking spaces, which are currently free, would be replaced by 64 secure spaces, allocated on a first come first served basis, for an annual fee of £300.

Arlington House has 140 flats, but developers believe only 45 to 50 of the parking spaces are used.

A spokesman for Arlington House Residents' Association confirmed residents had yet to meet to discuss the proposals.

Supermarket giant Tesco are contractually committed to the store if planning permission is granted and could open by 2012, creating 300 jobs.

A Freshwater spokesman said: "The application represents an opportunity to bring the town's main landmark into the fold.

"The area will be transformed and the regeneration will bring real benefits for residents and the wider community."

## Noisy night flights

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE  
 under 1,570 to bring Manston in line with other regional airports.

Additionally, it recommended restricting the number of actual flights and including limits on the shoulder periods between 11pm and 11.30pm and between 6am and 7am which had been left unregulated by the original plans. The report found an estimated 30,903 people would experience 85 decibels of noise if a Boeing 747-400 flew overhead and recommended extending insulation to the bedrooms of any of the affected buildings.

The report stated that only insulating those houses experiencing 57 decibels of average noise was too limited and not consistent with other airports. They recommended an average of 48 decibels, which would bring 13,443 people within the boundaries.

The review found the original plans to contain a number of errors and to have omitted key sources of information, including recommendations from the World Health Organisation.

Charles Buchanan, Manston airport chief executive, said: "We will review the recommendations in detail before we consider whether this requires an amended proposal or further information on the same plans."

Thanet council will review the information at the next airport working party meeting.

## Isle MPs' expenses

EXPENSES claims by MPs have been published for the first time since new independent regulators were brought in.

Thanet's MPs claimed £14,151.57 between May 7 and August 31.

Roger Gale, Thanet North MP, requested £8,144.54 to cover bills, office equipment, travel costs and insurance, including £4,765.28 towards rent on his London home and constituency office. Thanet South's Laura Sandys claimed £6,007.03, spending £3,285 on staff wages, £2,515.63 on a new database management system and the rest on petrol.

## Microwave bag blaze

A BURNING wheat bag in Birchington has sparked a warning from fire-fighters for people to stay warm but safe this winter.

Two fire crews attended a flat in Beach Avenue in the early hours of Sunday after the wheat bag, a popular warming device, caught light in a woman's microwave oven.

The woman was treated for smoke inhalation while crews extinguished the blaze and cleared the flat of smoke.

# Council accused over election reform

THANET council has been accused by a Ramsgate resident of trying to avoid its electoral responsibilities.

The council is required to consult on reforms of the council leadership model which could see a directly-elected leader take the reins.

Currently, the council leader and deputy are chosen annually by the full council and are inevitably drawn from the ruling majority.

The new structure introduces four-year leadership terms, and the public are given the choice of electing their own leader or letting councillors elect one of their own.

However, Michael Childs, owner of Michael's Bookshop in Ramsgate, believes the council has already made its choice.

Mr Childs said: "In my opinion, they are trying to rig an election.

"Both parties are united for the first

time in wanting to avoid the possibility of a directly-elected leader.

"The council hasn't gone through any of the proper routes. They haven't even published where you can go to be consulted."

The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 requires councils to consult residents on their preferences and choose the new model before December 31.

Thanet council's consultation, which closes at 5pm on Wednesday, December 15, isn't listed under the council's active consultations, but it is posted on the front page of www.thanet.gov.uk.

Thanet council denies the consultation method has been irregular but does admit it was told by Government ministers to treat the consultation lightly.

Grant Shapps, minister for housing

and local government, wrote a letter in July to all council leaders stating that the Government intended to reverse the legislation and councils were to "pursue this at minimal cost".

Mr Shapps said: "You will wish to have regard to the circumstances of today, including both the priority of cutting out all wasteful spending and the Government's commitments to allow councils to return to the committee system, should they wish to, and on elected mayors.

"We also intend to remove the necessity to elect a leader for four years. This may mean that any governance model you adopt in May 2011 may be further changed within a year or so."

Any changes to the system would not be adopted until after the annual meeting of the council, meaning any changes would not come into effect until the following elections.

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# Morning walks between Margate and Palm Bay inspiration behind collection

## Artist chalks new book down to town's graffiti

■ BY FLORENCE TENNENT

AN ASPIRING Margate artist has published a photographic collection of chalk graffiti celebrating the town's quirky character.

Richard Epps has lived in Margate for the last seven years, but has only recently decided to focus on his work as an artist, embarking on a part-time fine art degree at the Kent Institute of Art and Design and converting his garage into a design office and studio.

He put together Margate Forever, a collection of 150 photographs of chalk graffiti taken on morning walks between Margate and Palm Bay, to showcase his work to local galleries.

He said: "I've found it interesting because it's not what might be considered as normal graffiti.

"Because of the abundance of chalk and the wall that runs along that area, people who are not naturally drawn to street art decide to leave their mark. Things like 'My neighbours are nice' or 'Come into the garden Maud'."

Among hasty sketches and messages of love and hate, Mr Epps thinks he may have spotted a piece by one of Britain's most famous graffiti artists.

He said: "There's a photograph on the back cover of the book and I think it is a Banksy. It was on a wall near Jetski World at Palm Bay. Unfortunately, it has been washed off now."



**LEAVING THEIR MARK:** Richard Epps has tried to reflect a positive feel for Margate through his new book of graffiti

Although not all of the graffiti he finds is positive, he hopes it's a fair reflection of Margate and its people.

He said: "Despite some of the negativity about Margate, I love living here and I feel

really positive about the place. I have tried to reflect this in the book and the way that I have treated the photographs by changing their hue and saturation, making them bright and colourful."



Mr Epps studied fashion before embarking on a career in graphic design. He worked as an art editor for a textiles magazine until, with the birth of his children, he became a full-time dad.

Two years ago he began converting his house and garage into a studio space and since then his artwork has appeared in galleries around east Kent.

As a regular lifeboat volunteer he donated a piece to the Margate Lifeboat postcard art auction in September.

Although not currently exhibiting locally Mr Epps hopes to soon be launching a website for his work.

He said: "I am currently working on landscapes of Margate and prints and paintings of the graffiti photographs, but at the moment it's all very early stages."

Margate Forever is available to buy at <http://www.blurb.com/bookstore/detail/1785083>.

## Parade's snow go

MARGATE'S Christmas parade was cancelled on Friday as a string of public events fell foul of the icy conditions.

Responding to warnings from police that the wintry weather was set to worsen overnight, the Mayor of Margate decided to scrap the Christmas procession on Friday, December 3, and rebrand it as a New Year's parade, with a new date of Thursday, January 7.

People still flocked to the Old Town on the evening as four separate galleries opened new shows and shops stayed open for late night shopping.

The switching-on of the new Northdown road Christmas lights at St Paul's Church was postponed on Thursday, December 2.

## Top of the stops

A RAMSGATE hotel has been named the Best Small Hotel in the UK by a national travel magazine.

The Royal Harbour Hotel in Ramsgate won the Best Small Hotel award at the 2010 Oldie Travel Awards in London on Wednesday, November 10.

Judge Mark Palmer was particularly taken with the view towards France from room four, which he named the best in the country.

The 19-bedroom boutique hotel was bought in a dilapidated state by proprietor James Thomas in 1999, and has since won a string of accolades.

## Honest staff reunite man with lost £1,770

■ BY FLORENCE TENNENT

A MAN has been reunited with more than £1,700 in cash after losing it in a Ramsgate store.

Brandon Thornley, who had withdrawn £1,770 earlier on Tuesday, November 30, was amazed when police called him the next day to say it had been found.

He said: "The money was the deposit and first month's rent for my new house; I thought that was going to be it and I wouldn't be able to move in."

"I was a little bit more than ecstatic to get it back. I've never believed in the magic of Christmas, but now I'm not so sure."

Mr Thornley was driving home when he realised the envelope was missing.

### Dislodged

He said: "I started freaking out. I had slipped and banged my head walking to the shop so I was in a bit of a daze and the envelope must have been dislodged and slipped out of my pocket without me realising."

"I called the police and went back to all the shops I'd been in, but none of them had seen it."

Sandra Chapman, owner of the Haberdashery Shop in Ramsgate, spotted the brown envelope stuffed

with notes lying on the bottom of one of the racks by the door while they were closing the shop.

The envelope had lain untouched since at least midday when a very worried Mr Thornley had come into the shop asking if they'd seen it.

Amanda Rooke, shop assistant, said: "We were surprised it had been left there with things as they are in the economy - we'd sold a lot of things from that shelf."

"Unfortunately, the man had been in such a panic when he came in that he didn't leave any contact details so we handed it into the police as lost property."

Ramsgate police have applauded the honest actions of the staff.

Ian Warner, a sergeant at Ramsgate police station, said: "All too often we hear about people doing wrong and we condone their actions."

"It is refreshing and pleasing to be able to talk about those who have been considerate, acted in kindness and done the right thing."

"I would like to thank those shop workers who made a very worried man's day."

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# Thanet's Live Music Scene



## Where & When

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Sandwich 01304 612335

Friday 10th December  
**Breed**

The Red Lion, 1 King Street,  
Ramsgate 01843 586713

Saturday 11th December  
**Eyelash Guilt**

Bradstow Mill, 125 High Street,  
Broadstairs 01843 861108

Saturday 11th December  
**The Fling**

The Red Lion, 1 King Street,  
Ramsgate 01843 586713

Tuesday 14th December  
**Dave Paisley**

The New Inn, 2 Delf Street,  
Sandwich 01304 612335

Thursday 16th December  
**Heroes**

Bradstow Mill, 125 High Street,  
Broadstairs 01843 861108

Thursday 16th December  
**Rich Phillips**

The New Inn, 2 Delf Street,  
Sandwich 01304 612335

Friday 17th December  
**Lead gremlin**

The Red Lion, 1 King Street,  
Ramsgate 01843 586713

Saturday 18th December  
**Surf Dude**

Bradstow Mill, 125 High Street,  
Broadstairs 01843 861108

Saturday 18th December  
**Crazy Train**

The Red Lion, 1 King Street,  
Ramsgate 01843 586713

Friday 23rd December  
**Denny & Paul**

The New Inn, 2 Delf Street,  
Sandwich 01304 612335

Friday 24th December  
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**JOINING PROTEST:** Hartsdown Technology College's head of PE, Jason Jones, with youth sports ambassador Paul Ayers, SSP development manager Hilary Farmiloe and youth-sports ambassador Kerry Boyd

# Pupils join call for rethink on sport funding

SPORTS leaders have criticised the Government for scrapping school-sports funding, with thousands of campaigners demanding ministers re-think the move.

A campaign has been launched by the Thanet Schools Sports Partnership (SSP) and more than 3,700 people have signed a petition against the 'devastating' cuts, which will be presented to education secretary Michael Gove this week.

The project, which encourages competitive opportunities and involvement in non-traditional sports such as table-tennis and boxing, has become one of the many casualties of the Government's spending cuts.

Hollie-Anna Sheppard hopes to travel to London to present Downing Street with more than a million signatures from around the UK.

Miss Sheppard, a dance student at the Marlowe Academy, said: "The SSP has enabled me to meet a number of Olympic athletes who have really inspired me."

Since the SSP was launched in 2005, the number of pupils taking PE two hours a week increased from 58 per cent to 92 per cent; competition inside schools rose from 46 per cent to 97 per cent; and between schools it went from 25 per cent to 64 per cent.

Paul Ayers, junior sports leader at Hartsdown College, said: "The Government

■ BY FLORENCE TENNENT

wants more young people to get involved with sports and then it says it is going to cut such a fantastic scheme"

Mr Gove said the move would give schools more freedom to provide competitive sport.

He also said the Department for Education would work closely with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport to develop an Olympic-style approach to school sport.

Labour leader Ed Miliband called the move to axe SSP funding "daft" during Prime Minister's Questions last week.

Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg and health secretary Andrew Lansley have also admitted doubt over proposals.

Laura Sandys, Thanet South MP, said: "I have been contacted by several young people concerned about the realignment of funds for sports and I am making strong representation to the Secretary of State on their behalf."

However, Roger Gale, her Thanet North counterpart, said during a debate in the House of Commons on Tuesday, November 30: "The School Sports Partnerships have created layers of organisation and bureaucracy that, in the present financial circumstances, we cannot sustain."

"What is important is that young people continue to participate in active sport and to enjoy inter-school festivals."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

## Stolen property on show

A STOLEN-property display is to be unveiled in Margate for one day only in a bid to reunite owners with their lost goods.

Laptops, phones, games consoles and jewellery recovered by police will be on show at the Margate Media Centre between 9am and 2pm on Tuesday, December 14.

Among the more unusual objects is an inscribed silver cigarette case.

Mitchell Fox, district commander, said: "When we have executed warrants and made arrests, we have been recovering large amounts of property and valuables from some of the addresses these people frequent."

"We have managed to identify some owners, but by no means all and I would welcome people to our roadshow day."

No appointment is necessary, but people must bring proof of ownership or be able to describe the item's distinguishing features to reclaim it.

## Bag-snatcher gets away

POLICE are hunting a woolly-hatted bag-snatcher in Ramsgate who got away despite being caught by a member of the public.

A 33-year-old woman was walking along Boundary Road in Ramsgate between 5.30pm and 5.45pm on Friday, November 26, when a man grabbed her handbag and ran off.

A passer-by chased him, then appeared to walk off with him, before both men ran towards the railway station.

The thief was a white male, about 18, and wearing a woolly hat and khaki green jacket.

Witnesses can phone police on 01622 690690, quoting reference EY/018954/10, or Kent CrimeStoppers on 0800 555111.

## Snow delays meetings

THANET council has been badly hit by the winter weather.

Council offices including the Thanet Gateway Plus centre in Margate were closed by 3pm and public toilets were closed at 2pm on Thursday last week.

The cabinet meeting to discuss plans for a new Ramsgate pool and a parkway station for Manston has been postponed.

A meeting of Ramsgate Town Council to discuss the pool and closure of Ramsgate fire station on Wednesday last week was cancelled.

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## Blue plaque marks home of barrister

A PLAQUE commemorating the life of Sir William Garrow has been unveiled in Ramsgate.

The Ramsgate Society commissioned the blue plaque in Pegwell Lodge, the former home of the 18th-century barrister who coined the phrase 'innocent until proven guilty' and ushered in a culture of rigorous cross-examination in England's previously one-sided courtrooms.

John Hostettler, co-author of a biography of Garrow, and Bryan Gibson of the Garrow Society and publisher Waterside Press, dedicated the plaque on Monday, November 29.

Garrow's life has been serialised by the BBC, with the second series of Garrow's Law running at 9pm on Sundays.



**DEDICATION:** John Hostettler, Alma Beatty, owner of Pegwell Lodge, and Bryan Gibson



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## Take the bus home from your party

EASTONWAYS island hopper buses will be running a late night service for Friday night Christmas revellers.

Starting on December 10, the night bus will circle the isle each Friday through December, departing from Ramsgate Harbour at 11pm and stopping at Queens Road in Broadstairs, Northdown Road in Cliftonville, Cecil Square in Margate, Hussar Hotel in Garlinge and Birchington Square before returning to the harbour and repeating the journey on the hour. The last bus will leave Ramsgate at 3am.

Chris Wells, councillor for community services, said: "It's great to see the night bus returning to Thanet, thanks to funding from the police. The area has a thriving nightlife and we want to provide a cheap and easy way of getting home, so people won't be tempted to walk."

The service will run on Christmas eve and New Year's eve and costs £2 per journey. A 'hail and ride' service, the bus can be flagged down anywhere along its route, so long as it is safe to stop.

## Uplifting art search

THANET offshore wind farm is seeking an isle artist to decorate the lift shaft of their offices in Ramsgate Royal Harbour.

Vattenfall, the wind farm operators, are working with Ramsgate Arts to find an artist who can work on glass within a 140cm by 200cm space in their new lift. The work would need to be completed by February 2011.

For further details you can call Suzy Humphries of Ramsgate Arts on 07939 542990 or email [info@ramsgatearts.org](mailto:info@ramsgatearts.org).

# Helping us to help ourselves

A BUSINESS coach in Thanet is helping the unemployed to find their feet, despite facing possible unemployment herself.

Christine Holmes is a community business enterprise coach in Westwood Cross, helping unemployed people set up their own businesses.

Ms Holmes used to run a business in London before becoming a consultant. Moving to Thanet as a single mum with a diabetic son, she began to set up networking groups and offer free consulting, before taking a mentoring course and starting work on the South Eastern Enterprise Development project 18 months ago.

Now she offers ongoing free one-to-one coaching and mentoring designed to build the necessary confidence and skills needed to become self employed.

### Suggestions

She said: "I do some sign posting, making suggestions and telling them the basics but mainly it's about letting people talk about how this can fit with their lifestyle and goals."

"People underestimate sole traders; they can be highly skilled, hard working and often cheaper. One of my clients is a computer technician who used to work for BT who will come out at the drop of a hat and charge peanuts. Another is a personal trainer who used to train

■ BY FLORENCE TENNENT

paratroopers in the army and he knocks the spots of the people at the gym."

Talking to Ms Holmes it's clear she's passionate about the people she works with and a glance through her client list tells you why. A craftswoman offering hand-knitted goods, cards and bespoke 60s and 70s style designer clothing. Papier mâché art therapy. A bird control business using birds of prey; unique companies driven by motivated individuals.

Carol Hall was made redundant in August last year and now runs the Leather Archer, offering medieval style archery products, leather bags and goods made to request.

She said: "Although I tried hard for other jobs there were none forthcoming for an over 50 with a lifetime of work experience."

Ms Hall is a keen long bow archer and had taken a leather working course in June 2009.

She said: "On receipt of my redundancy I duly signed on at the job centre and was pointed in the direction of Christine Holmes."

"Christine is a superb listener, a brilliant motivator and gives the individual she is speaking to a great sense of worth about themselves. With Christine's guidance I was able to obtain an over 50s grant for tools and set up costs. Without this I could not have started my business."

"I have to say Christine Holmes is the most



HELP: Christine Holmes gives support to jobseekers

valuable asset to anyone trying, intending or with a glimmer of wanting to start a business, her practicality and business sense is priceless."

The program has had a high success rate, helping more than 1,100 people across the south east, but funding for the project will finish at the end of December.

Roy McAloney used to design campaigns for Saatchi and Saatchi and now runs Whirligig, an advertising design consultancy in Margate.

He said: "Like most start ups, people just need that extra push to get going and Christine gave me that. She's imbued with business, and she passed on some of that to me."

"I think it's a disgrace the government are withdrawing funding for SEED, but I would rather concentrate on praising Christine for all her help."

Ms Holmes is determined to continue her work despite the project ending.

She said: "I am hoping I will be able to continue the business; I am seeking funding either through myself or another agency."

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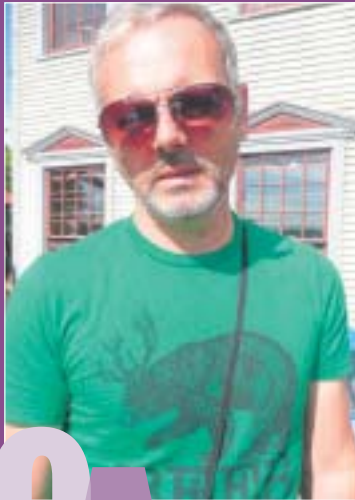




# yourlocalinterview

## QUESTION & ANSWER

### CHRISTOPHER TIPPING



#### Q Can you start by introducing yourself?

**A** I am an artist and designer working mostly in the public realm – the space between buildings! I trained in ceramics at Farnham and the Royal College of Art.

I work to commission and projects often run for several years so I have to run a number of projects at any one time – a fair amount of juggling to be done. I live here in sunny Ramsgate with my wife Shelly Goldsmith – also an artist – with whom I collaborate as Tipping Goldsmith and my daughter Nell, who is nine.

I work from home and can see the sea and horizon from my studio, which is at the top of the house. I see the ferries coming into port at night all lit up through the roofs and chimneys of houses on the seafront – magical!

#### Q Are you working on any projects on the isle?

**A** I am one of five artists who have worked over the last two years as a creative-artists advisory group to help inform work done by Jacobs Consultancy commissioned by Kent County Council looking primarily at the public realm of the waterfront in Margate.

I am currently working on a major public-realm project in Maidstone with architects Letts Wheeler. So I have a foot in the door in Kent. More opportunities would always be welcomed, though!

#### Q Have you always worked on a large scale?

**A** I suppose I have – I designed the promenades for Bridlington seafront, which are one kilometre long, and the platform patterns at Waterloo Underground station. The Guildhall Square in Southampton, which has just been completed, is the largest project I have worked on to date.

I used to throw pots on the wheel for a living! I try to keep in touch with the making process and the handmade by working closely with factories and manufacturers. I often hang around factories getting in the way.

#### Q What does your work involve?

**A** I spend a good deal of time in my studio developing ideas, but I often work more successfully as part of a team – with architects, engineers, manufacturers.

I consult a lot with key agencies and engage with the general public when researching projects. I am curious about lots of things, people included, and look to the hidden or forgotten elements and places for inspiration – Thanet is full of inspiration.

Materials, texture and narrative really interest me. The beach is better than the internet for trawling up ideas. I am often on the train travelling to various parts of the country to meetings with clients and manufacturers, which I really like, so the train has become a moving studio also.

#### Q Is there a running theme throughout your work?

**A** Being curious and nosy is the broad theme! Each commission is embedded in a unique site and wouldn't work anywhere else. The trick is getting the site to give up its secrets, which often means spending hours in archives or working directly with client groups and stakeholders getting them to let you into their world.

#### Q What brought you to Ramsgate?

**A** We came here in March 2006 from Kennington, south London, where we lived in a tiny housing-association flat. We had saved enough money for our first house, but London was too expensive.

We had been coming to visit friends in Broadstairs and loved the area – but Ramsgate definitely chose us. It was such a surprise to live here. What a secret!

We lived in London for 22 years, but we settled in here immediately. We made a lot of friends and have lovely neighbours who watch out for us – something we never had in London.

As inspiration and just for pleasure, all the usual suspects are here in plenty – the architecture, social history, the coast. It really ticked all my boxes.

Being near the sea is something special and the working harbour here is hugely interesting.



Christopher Tipping, an architectural designer living in Ramsgate, speaks to **Florence Tennent** about redesigning town centres and open spaces

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## TV show wants to hear about your work problems

A BROADSTAIRS film company wants to film your work woes.

TV Choice is looking for Thanet people who have had problems at work to



star in its new documentary 'People In Organisations'.

Norman Thomas, company director, said: "The aim of the film is to illustrate why things go wrong at work and to explore what can be done to solve the problems."

"Have you had an unfair appraisal interview or been given training that's just a waste of time? Or maybe you had a grievance and you don't feel it was handled fairly. Do you feel you've been a victim of bullying? Whatever the issue, we're interested in hearing from you."

Confidentiality is guaranteed and identities can be disguised. Mr Thomas hopes that highlighting problems, big and small, will make managers reconsider their treatment of staff.

He said: "We're particularly keen to hear from people who've been fired or made redundant, if they feel they've been unfairly treated in any way."

"Too many bad things happen in organisations – this film will set out to find out how bad, or good, things really are."

Anyone interested in appearing in the film should call Mr Thomas on 01843 604253 or email tv.choice@virgin.net.

# Golfing superstars can eye up a club sandwich

■ BY NICK AMES

A SPECIAL 'Open Sandwich' is to be created to celebrate The Open golf tournament coming to Sandwich.

The Open Championship Official Hospitality set a challenge for the residents of the county to create an official snack using only produce from Kent.

The creator was John Golding, from New Eltham, who said: "I love seafood and it's a sandwich my wife makes for me as a treat on special occasions."

"Being a huge golf fan, I felt this was very suitable for The Open Championship".

His winning sandwich contains a mixture of crab meat and whole peeled prawns in a tomato-and-chive dressing on a bed of shredded lettuce, thinly-sliced peeled cucumber and served in a baguette.

"Kent is famous for orchards, farms and being on the coast, it offers a fantastic selection of fresh seafood and is a natural larder for juicy fruit and vegetables, so with so much on the doorstep the choice of fillings was endless."

Malcolm Emery, executive chef for The Open Championship Hospitality, said: "After a day out on the golf course following your favourite players, an afternoon tea deserves to be savoured and enjoyed in the Kent coast sur-



**SLICE OF THE ACTION:** Malcolm Emery, executive chef for The Open Championship Hospitality, has the 'perfect package' roundings – and what better place to enjoy it than in the comfort of our hospitality village?

"We have created the perfect hospitality package with a selection of sandwiches filled with some of Kent's finest produce that each of our

hospitality guests will be able to savour and enjoy during The Open championship."

The hospitality team will have John's Open Sandwich on sale during the event and it will be seen in the official hospitality village.

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# Can you help to reveal story of wartime flag?

■ BY JAMES ALEXANDRE

A UNION Jack hand-stitched from parachute silk and dating from the Second World War has sparked an appeal for news of its original owner.

The flag has historical significance to Folkestone, Calais and Canada and was made by a French woman in 1944 to welcome the liberating troops.

The woman, who lived in Calais, is understood to have married a British soldier before moving to Folkestone, where she ended her days in a care home.

## Collector

The flag hung in her home for many years until a local collector acquired it, shortly after the woman's death about 12 years ago.

Now the flag has been bought by a shop-owner in The Old High Street, Folkestone, and he is asking for anyone who knew the woman to come forward.

John Bailey, of military-memorabilia shop Still In The Trenches, said: "It's very crudely made, partly hand-sewn and partly

machined, as if it's been done at lots of different times.

"The edging is made of what looks like tablecloth. It's literally just patches where they've had the material that was available."

Mr Bailey said people in Calais would have known about the Canadian advance through

Normandy and the flag must have been created in anticipation of the day that liberation came.

The day the Canadians freed Calais – October 1, 1944 – also marked the end of the cross-Channel shelling of Folkestone.

"I imagine if this had been found by the Germans, the lady could

have been shot or sent to a prison camp for even owning it," said Mr Bailey.

"It wouldn't have been flown from a flagpole – this would have been waved as a banner from a pole as the troops came into town.

"You see flags which have been attached to military units offered in museums, but this is the first one I've seen which was made by civilians for a liberation situation.

"It would be lovely to see a picture of the soldiers entering Calais with this flag being waved in the background.

"This is a unique item and its story really needs to be told and displayed somewhere substantial.

"I could easily just sell it to a collector, but I feel it needs to be in a proper museum, rather than being sheltered away."

Mr Bailey said he would like to hear from anyone who knew the French woman who owned the flag.

The flag can be seen in the shop at 49 The Old High Street, in the Creative Quarter.

Call John Bailey on 01303 247725 or email [info@stillinthetrenches.com](mailto:info@stillinthetrenches.com) if you can help.



TROPHY: Mr Bailey with the flag which is made out of parachute scraps



FIRE UP: Ambrette executive chef Des Biswal

## Game diners will go wild for exotic dishes

THE Ambrette restaurant in Margate has introduced a Wild And Exotic menu for the more adventurous diner.

Following the recent opening of Wild Sun, an exotic game-meat shop in Broadstairs, the award-winning Ambrette has joined the new trend in daring dining.

Among delicacies on offer is an ostrich brochette, tender fillet of python, white crocodile meat and zebra steaks.

Dev Biswal, executive chef for the Michelin-listed restaurant, said: "Some people laugh at me for admiring a specific vegetable, species of fish or meat – the rarer an ingredient, the more it fires me up.

"It's exciting when there is an opportunity to cook exotic meats such as python, water buffalo and fillets of crocodile tail."

All of the meat sold at The Ambrette is subject to the convention on international trade for endangered species, meaning the meat is either a by-product of the skin trade or hunted with a licence for population control.

Wild game has fewer calories and a fraction of the fat content found in farmed beef and pork meat.

Mr Biswal said: "To top it all, the exotic meats taste amazing – like everything else in life you don't know it until you have experienced it."

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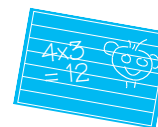
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## BREAK TIME

### Teens try out army life at the barracks

SENIOR students from Hartsdown Technology College in Margate were put through their paces during army activity days at Shorncliffe Barracks in Folkestone.

Thirteen Year 10 students visited the barracks for a team-building day designed to improve self-reliance, preservation and confidence as well as develop key skills for survival.



Meanwhile, year 11 students spent two days experiencing a range of army roles and getting a snapshot of life as a soldier.

Carol Cavanagh, the teacher who organised the trips, said: "The visits gave our students a fantastic overview of the army experience. They learnt new skills, developed an idea of what it is like to be on manoeuvres and training – and they had great fun, too."

### Open day success

THANET College has enjoyed its most successful November open day since 2003, with record numbers applying for full and part-time courses in everything from fashion to forensic science.

Travel and tourism students escorted visitors around the campus and interested parties were able to participate in practical demonstrations of nail art, food service and engineering, as well as appearing in a Star Wars movie thanks to a green screen in the media department.

The next open day won't be until March 16, 2011, but details of all the courses are available at [www.thanet.ac.uk](http://www.thanet.ac.uk).



**FETIVE GIFTS:** St Peters-in-Thamet pupils with some of the shoebox presents, below are two Birchington primary children with some of the boxes they collected

■ BY FLORENCE TENNENT

CHILDREN living in poverty around the world are getting boxes of festive cheer thanks to generous isle youngsters.

Pupils at St Peter-in-Thamet junior school gathered gifts and treats in festively-wrapped shoeboxes which will be sent to needy children in Africa, central Asia and eastern Europe. They may be the only gifts the children receive this year.

The boxes are delivered through Operation Christmas Child, which delivered £17.45 million worth of gifts in shoeboxes last year.

Birchington primary children are sending their shoeboxes to refugee families and orphans living in Romania, Moldova and Ukraine.

Kate Callaway, Key Stage 1 leader at the school, said the response was "overwhelming".

She said: "We are delighted to support this charity that makes children's lives so much happier. In the last 10 years we have sent just under 900 boxes to very poor children.

"They are filled with gifts and toiletries that really do make a difference to so many families who lack even the basics like soap."

## Boxes full of cheer



The Mustard Seed relief mission's Love In A Box campaign was launched in 1992 at the beginning of the third Balkan war.

Mrs Callaway said: "Supporting a charity appeal like this helps our children realise how lucky they are at this festive time of year."

**SEND your schools news and pictures to [yourthanet@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:yourthanet@kosmedia.co.uk). You can also upload your video clips of schools events on to [www.yourkenttv.co.uk](http://www.yourkenttv.co.uk)**

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# your lifestyle

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## DAY & NIGHT

### N-Dubz date postponed

CHART-toppers N-Dubz have rescheduled their date at the Leas Cliff Hall in Folkestone.

They were due to play on November 20 but have moved the date to March 31.

All tickets already purchased will remain valid for the rescheduled show.

For more information contact the box office direct on 01303 228600.

### Evil in the workhouse

IT'S Christmas in Victorian London and something perfectly dreadful is afoot in the workhouse.

The cruel Mr Gripps is holding a Christmas party for the workhouse Trustees, and whilst all make merry, a dastardly deed takes place.

The show is on Saturday December 18 at 7.30pm, at the Memorial Theatre, Hilderstone, Broadstairs.

Tickets are £8 for members and £10 for non-members. Call 0845 2626263.

### Final chamber concert

THE last of this season's Festival Chamber Concerts will be at St Peter's Methodist Church, Canterbury at 7.30pm on Saturday, December 18.

This delightful baroque concert will include Handel Silent Venti, composed when Handel was in England in 1732.

Kathryn Jenkins will be the soprano and Ian Crowther will perform Alessandro Marcello's Oboe Concerto in D minor.

Tickets are £15 each, students £7 and under 12s £4. Call 01227 763965 to book or go online to [www.crowthersofcanterbury.co.uk](http://www.crowthersofcanterbury.co.uk).

### Dress up and sing along

CATCH a special screening of the musical favourite Mamma Mia at the Avenue Theatre, Sittingbourne, at 7.30pm on Saturday, December 11.

Go dressed up as your favourite character from the film and sing along to Abba's greatest hits.

Tickets are £4 and include a free glass of wine. Call 01795 471140 or visit [www.avenuetheatre.co.uk](http://www.avenuetheatre.co.uk) to book.

### Candles and classics

A CANDLELIT Christmas Concert takes place at St Mildred's Church in Preston, at 4pm on December 12, at 4pm.

The Friends of Preston Church present a festive concert of classical and light music, with mulled wine, mince pies, a raffle and cards and gifts for sale.

Tickets are £8 adults, £5 children, and include refreshments. Call 01227 722513 to book or for more information.

### Red Herrings entertain

THE fabulous easy-listening jazz band The Red Herrings are holding a special Christmas concert.

They play in The Salvation Army Hall, Portland Road, Hythe, at 7.30pm on Saturday, December 18.

All the members of the band attended either the Harvey Grammar or the Folkestone School for Girls prior to entering university.

Tickets are £5 adults and £1 children from 01303 268354.

# Dave ready to join merry men

## ROBIN HOOD

December 4 to January 16  
Marlowe Arena, Canterbury.



DAVE Lee has been clambering into tights each Christmas for almost as long as he can remember.

The funnyman has starred in 15 Marlowe pantomimes on the trot and shows no signs of slowing down.

The self-confessed "fat bloke" is now synonymous with the annual production, which is possibly Kent's best-loved annual festive production.

From Cinderella to Sleeping Beauty, from Babes in the Wood to Snow White and her seven mischievous dwarves, the comic has been in them all, but his enthusiasm for the show is as fresh as when he first started.

"It's still, after all these years, something I am proud to be involved with and keen to be a part of," he said.

"I think they keep asking me back as I'm the best in my price range!"

This year, Dave stars in Robin Hood and it is likely to be a sell-out, as so many other before have been, but Dave is unsurprised by that.

Dave said: "The Marlowe pantomime has such a strong tradition and connection with the city that it is always popular. I'm not sure where I'd be without it."

"I'm lucky to be able to play dame, as each year we have such a good time and I know that the appetite for it is as strong as it's ever been. It's such a big bonus to be able to work not far from where you live and it's the focal point of my year."

"It's a shame at the end of the run when you go your separate ways, as you become like a family for those weeks."

Dave's co stars this year are John Thomson as the dastardly Sheriff of Nottingham and CBeebies presenter Sid Sloane as Robin.

Last year's show took place in a tented arena, while the famous Canterbury theatre is redeveloped, and the big top is back again this year, as work is still ongoing.

Some criticism was leveled at 2009's Peter Pan, but it's water off a duck's back to Dave, who lives in Herne Bay.

"I honestly thought it was a great show last year in the tent. We're in there again this time and I know there have been some small changes to the seating that will make it even better."

It was a tormented childhood that led Dave into comedy.

He cut his teeth on the comedy circuit, working with luminaries such as Eric Morcambe and his friend Les Dawson, but he says he owes it all to his robust physique.

He explained: "When you're young and you're fat, you get picked on. The best way I had to deflect it, to get around all of that was to tell jokes and be funny. It's a form of self



defence. If you can make someone laugh then you're half way there. It's a kind of self-preservation mechanism I guess."

Dave says he is looking forward to the redevelopment of the Marlowe when it is finished, and with 1,000 performances on the stage under his belt, he is as fit as anyone to pass comment.

He said: "If Canterbury is going to be a cultural beacon, then it has to have the theatre to match, and the old building badly needed renovating."

"So far, the work they have done looks fantastic. The facilities are going to be great."

"I think the new one will make the Marlowe one of the best theatres anywhere. I've asked the architect if he'll include my own self-contained flat, but he's not got back to me yet!"

Robin Hood takes place in the Marlowe Theatre Arena tent, and runs from December 4 to January 16. Ticket prices vary, but range from £10 to £24.50. To book, or find out more visit [www.marlowetheatre.org](http://www.marlowetheatre.org) or call 01227 7877787.



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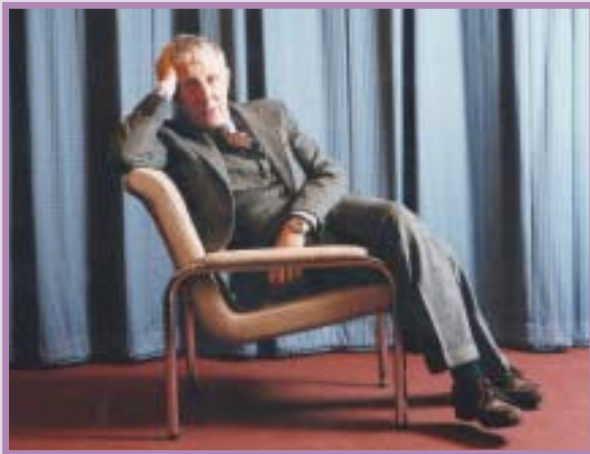
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## AN AUDIENCE WITH JONATHAN MILLER

December 11, Gulbenkian Theatre, Canterbury

MASTER of the arts Jonathan Miller comes to The Gulbenkian for a special evening focusing on his astounding career

The satirist, writer, sculptor, opera and film director, TV presenter and doctor of medicine, has spent a lifetime in the arts – much of it in comedy, working with comedy greats such as Peter Cook, Dudley Moore, Alan Bennett, and John Cleese.

Whilst reading medicine at Cambridge, Miller got involved in Footlights, which led him and three other Cambridge graduates to take their review Beyond the Fringe to London in 1961,

where it had a successful year-long run before moving to Broadway for 18 months.

On his return, Miller found himself in demand as a director for plays, and even as a presenter for television programmes on science and medicine.

Discover the secret of his success and spend an engaging evening in his company, with time for questions from the audience.

Tickets are £16, or £14 for Encore Gulbenkian members. Call the box office on 01227 769075 or go to [www.thegulbenkian.co.uk](http://www.thegulbenkian.co.uk) to book.



## JACK AND THE EMPEROR'S NEW CLOTHES

December 21 to December 23, Tom Thumb Theatre, Cliftonville

EXTRA performances have been added to the Tom Thumb Family pantomime in Cliftonville.

Changing Faces theatre will be bringing Jack and the Emperor's New Clothes to the small playhouse, with performances at 10am and 1.30pm each day.

The last time Changing Faces Theatre visited was back in February, with their sell-out success, George and the Dragon.

Artistic director, Nicholas Kessler, said: "It's great that people have remembered who we are, and what we did last time."

Frankie Jordan, actress and co-owner of the theatre said: "It

shows that theatre is alive and well here, at the Tom Thumb, in these tough economic times, is testament to the people of Margate and Cliftonville. They are the ones who have helped make it happen."

The Tom Thumb and Changing Faces Theatre are still offering their Super Family Ticket for £20, based on two adults and two children.

Standard tickets cost £7.50 for adults, £5.50 for children.

To book or for information call the box office at the theatre in Eastern Esplanade, Cliftonville on 01843 221791, or email [info@tomthumbtheatre.co.uk](mailto:info@tomthumbtheatre.co.uk).

## ON THE STREETS OF CANTERBURY

Friday, December 10,  
Cathedral Archives, Canterbury

DUE to public demand, an extra date for the screening of some anticipated archive footage on Canterbury has been added.

On the Streets of Canterbury will now be screened in the Cathedral Archives at 3.30pm on Friday, December 10.

Originally the film was to be shown once, on Friday, November 26, but demand was high and the date sold out.

The footage is a collection of amateur cine film presented by local historian and film collector Tony Blake. Much of the 45-minute film footage has never been shown in public before, and promises to be a fascinating and entertaining journey.

Viewers will be transported back to witness Canterbury pre-World War II, in the 1930s, travel through Canterbury by car in the 1960s and watch double-decker buses drive down the High Street.

It forms part of an exciting new BBC-led national project Turn Back Time – The High Street.

There will be an entrance fee of £2 for this unique event. Book in advance by calling the Cathedral Archives on 01227 865330.



## JANE WEBSTER

Sunday, December 19, The Dominican Priory, Canterbury

THE last Friends of the Marlowe Sunday night concert of this year will bring the glorious voice of popular mezzo-soprano Jane Webster to the charming Dominican Priory.

The venue has proved to be the perfect setting for these musical evenings which are enjoyed by large audiences.

The festive concert is described as a musical and literary jaunt through the traditions of Christmas past and present, and will feature Christmas music and carols, Christmas anecdotes and a few surprise items.

Jane has endeared herself to Canterbury audiences in several previous appearances. In addition to her fabulous voice, her vivacious personality has established a great rapport with her audience. Peter McCarthy, her accompanist, is a pianist with an impressive musical background.

He has been musical director for many West End shows including Cats, The Sound of Music and Les Misérables and is currently associate musical director for the new musical, Love Story, at London's Duchess Theatre.

Tickets are £13 from the Marlowe box office in Canterbury's Visitor Information Centre on 01227 787787, or online at [www.newmarlowetheatre.org.uk](http://www.newmarlowetheatre.org.uk).

Each ticket includes a glass of wine.

## HORSEBRIDGE CHRISTMAS QUIZ

Saturday, December 18,  
Horsebridge Arts and Community Centre,  
Whitstable

TEAMS of six to eight people are wanted for a festival fact-a-thon.

Do you think you could put together a team to beat others eager to beat other quiz contenders all after the prizes?

If so, then put a team together from friends, family or work colleagues, think of a suitably witty name and join the Horsebridge Christmas Quiz.

The evening is guaranteed to get you in the seasonal spirit and warm your cockles there will be a selection of fab prizes to win, as well as a Christmas raffle.

The quiz night makes a great night out for a Christmas works do, or just for those who are keen to keep their grey matter active over the holidays.

There will be guest speakers and a selection of Christmas nibbles.

Tickets are £5 per person, and the fun gets underway at 7.30pm.

Participants can bring their own drinks. Pop into the centre to get tickets, email [info@horsebridge-centre.org.uk](mailto:info@horsebridge-centre.org.uk) or call the box office on 01227 281174 to book.

Visit [www.horsebridge-centre.org.uk](http://www.horsebridge-centre.org.uk) for more information.







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Most of the pieces shown are available in multiple sizes to make the perfect fit in both furnishing style and position in the home, coupled with our custom making option on many of our ranges to give a special individual look.

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We also offer a full specialist Oriental carpet repair and cleaning service that fine pieces deserve, from small mark removal to complete reweaves and renovation. Please ask in store for details.

This weekend we will be celebrating the launch of our new department within Nasons of Canterbury's bed and furniture centre with up to 30 per cent off of our entire hand-knotted Oriental selection for Saturday and

Sunday, December 11-12. There will also be many other special introductory offers for this weekend only.

Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to buy a very special one of a kind rug for an extraordinary price.

We look forward to welcoming you in store.

Pictured is a rug which has been hand-knotted in India and is 100 per cent wool using a Afghan Kazak inspired design it's exact measurements are 238cm x 143cm (7'9"x4'9"), and it has a retail price of £440.

For your chance to win this fantastic rug from The Rug House just answer this simple question:

**How much of the rug is made from wool?**

**A, 20 per cent**

**B, 50 per cent**

**C, 100 per cent**

Send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to The Rug House Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SS. The closing date is Tuesday, December 21, 2010.



No purchase necessary. For our full terms and conditions please visit [www.kentnews.co.uk](http://www.kentnews.co.uk), or call 01303 817073. If you do not wish to receive any literature please write 'no literature' on your entry.

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# Clever twist between good and evil but film fails to be distinctive

■ BY DAMON SMITH

SUPERMAN wouldn't be quite so super without scheming Lex Luthor, while Batman's cowl and utility belt would gather dust were it not for the maniacal Joker.

Good and evil live side by side, locked in a perpetual tug of war.

Light or dark occasionally triumphs but invariably the balance of power shifts between them.

Directed by Tom McGrath, who previously made *Madagascar* and its sequel, *Megamind* is a fast-paced computer animated adventure that asks if a villain could become a hero when the entire world is pitted against him.

The role reversal taps into a rich vein of humour and screenwriters Alan J Schoolcraft and Brent Simons have fun plundering the conventions of the genre.

They pepper the script with pop culture references, wry one-liners and visual gags like the No You Can't posters which the eponymous villain plasters over the city in a sly dig at Barack Obama's election promises.

There is also an affectionate nod to Marlon Brando's scenery-chewing portrayal of Superman's father Jor-El.

However, in a vintage year for dazzling, family-friendly animation led by *Toy Story 3* and *How To Train Your Dragon*, McGrath's film lacks that special something to distinguish it from the crowd.

*Megamind* (voiced by Will Ferrell) is separated from his alien parents as a child and crash-lands on Earth, where he grows up in the Metro Prison For The Criminally Gifted.

Surrounded by thieves, murderers and degenerates, he discovers his calling.

"Being bad is the one thing I'm good at!" he giggles, sowing the seeds of a lifelong rivalry with dashing hunk Metro Man (Brad Pitt), who gets all of the applause and the girls, including TV journalist Roxanne Ritchi (Tina Fey).

Miraculously, one of *Megamind*'s elaborate



**LIVELY AFFAIR:** Megamind (above) battles it out with Metro Man (right) but will victory bring him happiness?

plans comes to fruition and Metro Man is destroyed, allowing the villain and his loyal henchman, Minion (David Cross), to take charge of Metro City.

Unthinkably, the villain develops strong feelings for Roxanne.

"The one thing I do know: the bad guy never gets the girl," Minion reminds him.

"Maybe I don't want to be the bad guy," shockingly replies Megamind.

Perhaps Roxanne's snivelling cameraman (Jonah Hill) could provide a novel solution to the predicament.

*Megamind* is a lively affair and makes good

use of the 3D technology during the action sequences.

Vocal performances are strong and Ferrell tugs the heartstrings as the lead protagonist, who is tired of striking fear into everyone he meets.

Tom McGrath's film appropriates elements from *Shrek* and *The Incredibles* and produces an entertaining hybrid that should have parents chuckling with glee.

However, with the focus on the unlikely romance and a noticeable absence of cute supporting characters, young audiences may be bored out of their not-so-mega minds.



**MEGAMIND**  
Certificate PG

Pictures PA PHOTO/PARAMOUNT PICTURES UK



**FLASHBACK:** Ian Hislop looks at the people who changed Victorian Britain in a new BBC history series on Monday nights



**YOUR TV REVIEW**

**THE AGE OF THE DO-GOODERS:** BBC2, 9pm, Monday

■ BY ED HILL

NINETEENTH century history can be pretty boring particularly on the domestic front. All I can remember is the endless arguments that surrounded the repeal of the Corn Laws and I've forgotten what they were.

Despite this, Ian Hislop has chosen the leading figures in social change that happened during that time as the focus of his new series.

In *'The Age of the Do-Gooders'* (Monday BBC2 9pm) he puts the spotlight on men and women who looked at Victorian broken Britain and said, "Something must be done" and more importantly, "I am going to do it".

He has chosen men such as William Wilberforce, who successfully campaigned to have slavery abolished in the British Empire. Although his most famous achievement, he was also involved in setting up the RSPCA and other moral crusades.

A reformed lad-about-town himself the

programme revealed he had a vision one night of a decayed and decadent society. Wilberforce vowed to change his ways and expected everyone else to do the same.

In fact satirists like Mr Hislop of the time, painted him as a bit of a spoilsport.

When the country was changing rapidly because of the industrial revolution these busybodies introduced changes that made Britain a modern society with a conscience.

Another revolutionary the programme focused on was Charles Trevelyan who battled to reform the civil service. His new exams meant people were appointed on merit and no longer in politicians' pockets.

In the area of social housing Octavia Hill became a leading figure. She bought up houses to rent to the poor. She was a strict landlady demanding homes be kept clean and were regularly inspected by her

followers. She opposed cash hand-outs or anything that might create a dependency culture but essentially invented the field of social work.

Hislop intersperses the show with chats to commentators such as the Archbishop of Canterbury Dr Rowan Williams.

The series opened with him wearing a tall top hat making him appear like a cross between Bertie Bassett and Penfold from *Dangermouse*.

Although a worthy examination of his subjects' achievements it could have focused more on the character of his idols. The *Private Eye* editor is an interesting presenter but the programme was too full of him talking to camera. I would have liked to have heard more from the Do-Gooders themselves.

However, if you like your history presented in a straightforward manner, this programme gives these pioneers the recognition they deserve. Most of us take



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Extend the New Year celebrations and take advantage of our super money-saving offer. Our 3-night New Year party break includes hotel accommodation, breakfast and dinner each day, entertainment with special guests the Dagenham Girl Pipers and a Free bar every evening. Sinah Warren is a luxury hotel by the sea on Hayling Island - just along the south coast from Portsmouth.

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## Winter Warmer Party

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## Mamma Mia Party

Warner Bembridge Coast, Isle of Wight - over 50s only

February 25 to 28, 2011

### PRICE INCLUDES:

- Entertainment featuring a Mamma Mia movie screening, Abba tribute band in concert & more
- 3 nights en-suite Ambassador Room
- 3 dinners and 3 breakfasts
- Leisure facilities: Indoor pool & sauna
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- **FREE DRINKS** from 3.30pm to 11pm on Friday and 12noon to 11pm on Saturday & Sunday. Drinks include house beers & spirits, house wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers, tea & coffee



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# yourmusic

## Gig helps spread the festive cheer



**WARMING:** Cocos Lovers are something to look forward to this wintry December

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

GOOD heavens I hate December.

Yes, I know it's the month that brings us Christmas (happy birthday Jesus), the festive spirit and goodwill to all men but, by and large, the four freezing weeks of December are a nightmare.

There's the weather to contend with, for a start.

At the first sign of snow the county grinds to a standstill, with the road and rail networks descending into total chaos.

And while thousands of my fellow stricken commuters take a 'snow day' and go out sledding with their children I'm chained to my wi-fi laptop working from home. Thanks, technology.

Away from the Arctic weather, December brings us the thankless task of buying presents.

I, being a fairly typical man, hate trawling around the shops at any time of the year, but December takes this hellish challenge to another level.

You spend hour upon agonising hour searching for that perfect gift while constantly being slowed down by the 10,000 other frantic left-it-to-the-last-minute shoppers doing the same thing. Internet shopping is not the answer, either. Unless you're happy with a delivery date of 'sometime between December and May 2011'.

However, the month does hold certain charms.

How better to stave off the winter chill than with a good film, a roaring fire, a thick blanket and a bottle of red? Even the most hardened 21st century Scrooges would have difficulty not being tempted.

And more adventurous revellers can look forward to an inspiring carol service or two.

The Farmhouse, Canterbury, is holding its own service on December 19, hosted by Smugglers Records and their favourite artists.

A spokesman said: "Like any good smugglers tavern The Farmhouse will be filled with local ales and ciders, mulled wines and hot spiced cider. Bowls of warming winter stews and pies carried by

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**LIVE AND LOUD:** Los Salvadores perform at Chambers, Folkestone



### TOP FIVE CHART

- 1 Craig Sheridan: Times Change (from Deal)
- 2 Don't Eat The Mic: Invaders Must Die (from Deal)
- 3 Cristlefridge: Unbreakable (from Whitstable)
- 4 Ron Bowdery: The Hooray Henries (New Eltham)
- 5 Vivid Nation: What Will Be (from Canterbury)

wenches will keep the fires stoked as The Ladies of the Lake and The Smugglers Singers kick off the evening.

"As evening turns to dusk Sam Airey, Will Varley, The Momeraths, The Turncoat and His Hellfire Orchestra, Tom Farrer & The Pharos and Cocos Lovers will carry us all away on a wave of good food, great beer and music to warm the winter cockles."

December, for its flaws, may just win me over yet.



**GRAND RESIDENCE:** While living like the aristocracy it's well worth paying a visit to Blenheim Palace, which is open for the festive season

## yourgetaways

## Find out how the other half live when you move house

■ BY SARAH O'MEARA

ON THE surface, my family's decision to spend a weekend in Eynsham was not too dramatic a change of pace.

Our family home is also in a medieval town represented by a Conservative MP (though not, as in Eynsham's case, David Cameron), near a university city (Cambridge rather than Oxford), and has the odd stately home on its doorstep, although rather smaller than Eynsham's Blenheim Palace.

The reason for our move was the prospect of spending time in a grand period home, rather than our detached, modern house.

On our first day in east Oxfordshire, we tramped through the fields behind Eynsham town, coming across country pile after country pile. But as the temporary owners of a local Georgian townhouse (vivat-trust.org), we felt nothing but neighbourly good cheer for these lucky folk.

And while the sound of military planes roaring overhead from RAF Brize Norton did occasionally threaten to drown out conversation, no level of noise could smother the happy sound of six people talking about their move, albeit temporary, up the social ladder.

The Vivat Trust offers people the chance to experience some of the most beautiful historic buildings in England and Scotland, by re-purposing them as holiday accommodation. And they're often set in the most idyllic locations.

Of the 24 homes in Scotland and England in its portfolio, the Vivat

### FACT FILE: EYNSHAM

Sarah O'Meara was a guest of Vivat Trust Holidays, which offers minimum three-night self-catering stays at Mulberry House (sleeping seven) from £507 in its 2011 brochure, with seven nights from £780. Peak season (Aug) prices are £860 and £1,322 respectively.

- Vivat's 2011 brochure is available in mid-December, when it launches a new website (www.vivat-trust.org) which will accept online bookings and non-returnable deposits (one third of total charge).
- Vivat inquiries also at 0845 090 0194.
- For more information about tourist attractions and events see www.visitoxfordandoxfordshire.com alternatively for details of local walks visit www.oxfordshire.gov.uk and search for Oxfordshire Countryside Access Map.



Trust owns 10 – and manages the rest for private owners.

Mulberry House is one of its newest properties, sleeping seven. It was the home of a single lady whose son kindly passed management of the home to the charity.

You can still feel the edifying, gentle presence of the former owner in every room, decorated as the Grade II-listed building is with drawings of flowers, landscapes, framed tapestries, colourful pottery – and plenty of elegant, cultural books.

After a few days of general pottering, it was time for a proper group trip. Blenheim Palace, home to the 11th Duke and Duchess of Marlborough and birthplace of Winston Churchill, is a few minutes' drive from Eynsham and has just opened for its festive season.

Built to celebrate the first Duke

of Marlborough's victory at the battle of Blenheim in 1704, the scale of grandeur reflects some of the more racy moments of its social history.

After a day spent dreaming of living lives as unhappy, yet well furnished, aristocrats, we left the estate and headed to the nearby village of Kingston Bagpuize, affectionately called Bagpuis by locals, in search of the country house restaurant Fallowfields (www.fallowfields.com).

Post-suffocating luxury, it was a pleasure to be welcomed into a more modern environment.

At this award-winning and ethically-minded restaurant, the fruit and vegetables come from their kitchen garden, the pork, beef, eggs, chicken and duck from their farm – and everything else from local Oxfordshire suppliers.



## MOTORS NEWS



### VW's coupés given the BlueMotion makeover

EVEN sportier drivers are in the mood to go green – or blue.

That's the message from VW after unveiling environmentally-friendlier BlueMotion Technology Scirocco and Passat CC four-door coupes.

And while early BlueMotion efforts did compromise the driving experience, we won't dispute that keen drivers are unlikely to feel any great loss in that area.

Scirocco BlueMotion prices start from £21,500, while the Passat CC versions start from £23,555, including Stop/Start.



### New-look Corsa ready to keep sales growing

VAUXHALL has revamped the Corsa supermini (from £9,995) to maintain the model's position within the UK top five for sales.

With looks gained looks from the Insignia, Astra and Meriva, it highlights Vauxhall's bid to move upmarket, away from a sector likely to become more cut-throat as buyers tighten their belts.

The front end has been radically and stylishly updated and includes the 'Eagle-Eye' headlamps seen on the recently launched Meriva



### Ibiza gets a lively boost of junior turbo power

IT WAS a marriage made in motoring heaven – the VW group's lively turbocharged 1.2-litre petrol engine and the Ibiza supermini produced by its sporty Spanish marque, Seat.

The new 1.2 TSI unit is available with five-speed manual gearbox or VW's auto or manual seven-speed DSG box with double clutch, with prices from £12,780.

It engine replaces the similar output 1.6-litre engine, while delivering better performance; a 25 per cent rise in average mpg and a 20 per cent cut in emissions.



**WIND-IN-THE-HAIR:** Despite first appearances Renault's new-look folding hardtop the Wind, derived from their baby hatchback Twingo, offers an excellent driving experience

# Renault blows hot and cold with its new Wind

## ROAD TEST RENAULT WIND

BY STEVE LOADER

### STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

surprisingly comfortable and good at handling the bumps and thumps of roads still scarred by the winter of 2009/10.

Even with the roof folded, the boot is large for this class and I can imagine Renault sticking batteries in the back for a future electric Wind – would anyone bet against ads featuring wind turbines?

The cabin is fairly short of stowage though, with minimal door pockets, so the most likely buyer must stash her handbag behind one of the seats if she is carrying a passenger.

And she won't like the exterior door handles either; I have it on good authority that these will play merry hell with the manicure.

Our flagship Collection model had the leather and heated seats pack (£950) and sporty touches such as alloy pedals, leather-clad wheel and gearshift, and a red visor crowning the clocks and gauges in the binnacle.

The quality of the cabin materials generally though is average for a car priced from £15,500, too close to the street cred and extra two seats of the BMW Mini Convertible and the classic two-seater style of the Mazda MX-5 – a proper grown-up roadster, which also has the option of a folding hardtop.



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### 10 Plate Skoda Octavia 2.0 TDI PD vRS 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Black Metallic with a Black Velour - Leather interior, 8,100 miles. £16,995

### 08 Plate Skoda Octavia 2.0 TDI PD vRS 5-Dr Estate

Finished in Black Magic Metallic with a Black Velour - Leather interior, 35,111 miles. £13,995

### 05 Skoda Octavia 2.0 TDI PD Ambiente 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Satin Grey Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 47,800 miles. £6,995

### 03 Plate Skoda Octavia 1.9 TDI Elegance 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Diamond Silver Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 91,200 miles. £3,995

### 58 Plate Skoda Roomster 1.9 TDI PD 3 5-Dr MPV

Finished in Brilliant Silver Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 11,000 miles. £10,795

### 09 Plate Skoda Fabia 2 1.2 HTP 12V (70 BHP) 5-Dr Estate

Finished in Grey Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 10,700 miles. £9,495

### 58 Plate Skoda Fabia 1 1.2 HTP 6V (60 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Dynamic Blue with a Black Cloth interior, 13,200 miles. £6,995\*

### 10 Plate Skoda Fabia 1 1.2 HTP 6V (60 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Dynamic Blue with a Grey Cloth interior, 9,500 miles. £6,995

### 59 Plate Skoda Fabia 1 1.2 HTP 6V (60 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Corrida Red with a Grey Cloth interior, 9,800 miles. £6,995

### 57 Plate Skoda Fabia 1 1.2 HTP 6V (60 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Flamenco Red Metallic with a Grey Cloth interior, 22,500 miles. £5,995

### 54 Plate Skoda Fabia 1.2 HTP (54 BHP) Classic 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Dynamic Blue Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 48,500 miles. £3,995\*

### Skoda Fabia 1.4 16V Bohemia (75 HP) 5-Dr Estate

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### Skoda Fabia 2 1.6 16V (105 BHP) 5-Dr Estate

Finished in Brilliant Silver Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 27,250 miles. £8,795

### 07 Plate Skoda Octavia 2.0 TDI PD vRS 5-Dr Estate

Finished in Black Magic Metallic with a Grey Velour - Leather interior, 57,500 miles. £9,995

## Other Makes

### 59 Plate SEAT Leon 1.9 TDi S Emocion 5-Door Hatchback

Finished in Red Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 11,300 miles. £13,495

### 51 Plate BMW 3 Series 2.5 325Ci 2-Dr Convertible

Finished in Titanium Silver Metallic with a Grey Leather interior, 44,300 miles. £9,795

### 2008 Mitsubishi Lancer 1.6 Equippe 4-Door Saloon

Finished in Metallic Gunmetal Grey, Manual, 21,800 miles. was £7,995\* **Now £6,995\***

### 55 Plate Peugeot 407 SW 2.0 HDi 136 SE (Luxury)

Finished in Silver Metallic with a Black Leather interior, 44,500 miles. £7,995

### 56 Plate Honda Jazz 1.4i-DSi SE 5-Door Hatchback

Finished in Ice Blue Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 21,135 miles. £5,795

### 2006 Fiat Punto 1.2 Active 5-Door Hatchback

Finished in Astral Blue Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 41,430 miles. £4,495\* **Now £3,295\***

### Citroen Berlingo 2.0 HDi Multispace Desire 5-Door Estate

Finished in Artic Steel Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 69,500 miles. £3,995

### 2006 Ford Ka 1.3 3-Door Hatchback

Finished in Colorado Red with a Black Cloth interior, 56,500 miles. Was £3,995. **Now £3,295\***

### 2002 Daewoo Tacuma 1.6 SE 5-Door MPV

Finished in Imperial Blue Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 59,500 miles. £2,995, **Now £1,995\***

### 58 Plate Fiat 500 1.3 MultiJet Sport 3-Door Hatchback

Finished in Pasodoble Red with a Grey Velour - Leather interior, 27,100 miles. £10,795

### Toyota Yaris 1.3 VVT-i T3 5-Dr

Finished in Eclipse Black Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 32,500 miles. £5,995

\*Correct at time of going to press.

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### 0% APR Finance

08 Plate  
Ford Ka



Cash Price	Deposit	Balance to Finance	34 Monthly Payments
<b>£4499</b>	<b>£1349.70</b>	<b>£3149.30</b>	<b>£87.48</b>
First Instalment <b>£87.48</b>	Final Instalment <b>£87.50</b>	Total Amount Payable <b>£4499</b>	<b>0%APR</b>

### 0% APR Finance

02 Plate  
Ford Focus  
4dr



Cash Price	Deposit	Balance to Finance	22 Monthly Payments
<b>£3399</b>	<b>£99</b>	<b>£3300.00</b>	<b>£137.50</b>
First Instalment <b>£137.50</b>	Final Instalment <b>£137.50</b>	Total Amount Payable <b>£3399</b>	<b>0%APR</b>

### 0% APR Finance

05 Plate  
Vauxhall  
Agila



Cash Price	Deposit	Balance to Finance	22 Monthly Payments
<b>£3999</b>	<b>£1199.70</b>	<b>£2799.30</b>	<b>£116.63</b>
First Instalment <b>£116.63</b>	Final Instalment <b>£116.81</b>	Total Amount Payable <b>£3999</b>	<b>0%APR</b>

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# your letters



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**EMAIL:** Email us your letters at yourthanet@kosmedia.co.uk.

## YOUR LETTERS

### We are the group who bring results

I am truly grateful to councillor Iris Johnston for her letter in last week's paper in which she says that "everything from shelters to loos to Dreamland have fallen into disrepair" but at the same time acknowledges and welcomes the new Ramsgate swimming pool. Well, that's a good start.

I do not think there are many who share her sentiment, that Labour losing control of Thanet council in 2003 was unfortunate, nor the demise of her central government, but I would like to address her list of 'failures'.

- **Toilets:** When she was in power, a significant number of toilets was closed and in disrepair, which we inherited. We have renovated toilets in Westgate; East Pier Yard, Ramsgate; Stone Bay and Dumpton Gap, Broadstairs, and included in some of the renovations ambulant and baby-changing facilities. We have installed a new toilet in King George VI park.

- **Tourism:** Worthy of comment as she was the cabinet member. We have introduced major new events while supporting existing events because tourism is one of our key industries and employers. Our support has ensured continued growth of this product, benefiting Thanet and enhancing our product both locally and nationally. Broadstairs second best UK resort, Margate next to Rio, more Blue Flags – what more can we say?
- **Swimming pools.** Hartsdown when we were elected had reached its 'sell-by date', urgently needing major investment. We have done that and it is now an excellent facility – I strongly urge everyone to visit and use it. Ramsgate pool was also needing major investment and renovation, and we set about raising funding specifically for the Ramsgate pool from asset sales, all of which were robustly objected to and fought against by her group. However, I am grateful that she now recognises our perseverance is a good-news story.

- **Shelters:** We have had, since taking office, a continuous repair programme trying to stay ahead of vandals which began with the shelter by the Nayland Rock. As we speak, the last shelter requiring work is being worked on. Ramsgate Town Council at its request has taken over its cliff-top shelters.

There are many other good-news stories: Turner, Arlington House, wind farms, investment in Ramsgate port and marina, Thanet Earth, café culture, Westwood Cross, innovation centres, new hotels constructed and under construction, sea defences in Margate, new businesses – all worthy of note and bringing employment opportunities.

These success stories are not, I quote, "cynical approaches that raise hopes as we approach the 2011 elections".

These are facts, not fantasy. We believe in results, not 'investigating

## your blogger

Ian MacMillan asks if the divorce process has improved since his split-up in the 1980s



I WAS divorced in the 80s after my wife, who was 11 years younger than me, formed a relationship with a man seven years younger than her and left me with three children under 10 to look after.

Giving up work and throwing myself at the mercy of the State did not occur to me, although hiring an au pair did, on the 'kill two birds with one stone' type of thinking.

Instead of a slender Swede, I got a large German girl who had ways of using my credit card that had never occurred to me.

As a reasonable runner in my youth, I firstly hired the solicitor with whom I used to train but found that my case was being dealt with by a lady who, when I met her, was mostly hidden behind a pile of files and hardly knew anything about me.

In those days, 'matrimonial' issues were dealt with by embittered feminist divorcees motivated by the chance to get vicarious revenge against the male sex in general.

So, £500-odd worse off but much the wiser for it, I went on to hire a proper solicitor and, in the end,

the agreement that my ex and I had before we went to solicitors came to fruition.

She would pay no maintenance but relinquish any financial interest in the house.

I had two reservations about the divorce process I went through and wonder if they still apply today.

To my puzzlement, back in the early 80s, the fact that I was the innocent party and my ex the guilty one seemed to be irrelevant.

And here was little old me, naïve at the time, thinking that there was a connection between legal and ethical... sorry, a pig has just flown by my window.

Well, in my break-up, this 'no-fault' divorce worked against me but, quicker on the uptake than my ex, I worked out that the status of the legal eagle acting for me was very relevant indeed.

Has anything changed?

Is the behaviour of the parties in a divorce still irrelevant? Does justice (ha ha) still depend on the status of the lawyer one can afford?

Like, does a £100-an-hour solicitor always trump an £80-an-hour one, with the facts of the case scarcely relevant?

Being a half-empty-glass type of a guy, I doubt it. I'm no longer naïve, by the way.

If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering, contact the editor, **Dave Mairs**, on 01303 817022, or email him on the details above.

If you want to be the next Thanet blogger, then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of about 550 words) and email it to the editor.

And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town, log on to [www.yourthanet.co.uk](http://www.yourthanet.co.uk).

possibilities'. It is very true that actions speak louder than words – Thanet council is getting on with it, and much more can be achieved by working together.

**Cllr Roger Latchford OBE (Conservative)**  
Birchington North ward

### Arlington House: we need more changes

I attended the presentation on the updated plans for Arlington House and the proposed Tesco store by Freshwater representative PPS.

Several concessions have been made by Freshwater thanks to all the efforts made by the residents' association, but there is still considerable fine-tuning required. Many residents would want extended leases and better solutions on car-parking and site-management.

One of the biggest concerns raised was on the 64 car-parking spaces at a cost of £300 per annum.

The 142 flats would require many more spaces and of course were previously free and included in many occupiers' leases.

The residents would also be expected to contribute 10 per cent of the cost of the scaffolding and also fund the cradle for cleaning windows which are to be replaced.

The building is to be stained rather than painted and this is believed to come with a 25-year guarantee. Residents asked for the name of the product, is to be advised.

Internal repairs would be charged to the residents and all improvements to Freshwater as previously agreed.

Instead of the £17,000 first mooted, some residents may be able to avail of a financial loan to cover costs between £6,000 and £8,000 payable on sale, death or re-letting.

I raised the fact that some of the damage to the lifts was caused by masts being ferried to the top of the building and in fairness, residents, who do not financially gain by the use of the roof, should not be expected to bear all of the costs.

Thanet council officers advise me that, despite being the freeholder, the authority is actually able to hear the application, which is likely to be received around Friday, December 10.

I have asked for a meeting of all interested parties once the application is received so that everyone can properly formulate their responses to the planning committee.

**Cllr Iris Johnston (Labour)**  
Margate Central ward

### High-speed vanity project's false dawn

It was launched with a fanfare of trumpets and it promised the dawn of a new age of rail travel in the South East.

Its roots go all the way back to the Channel Tunnel Bill and the promise that even those of us who live in east Kent, behind the 'Tunnel door' would enjoy the benefits of the rail link on domestic services. What a let-down!

A year on, the much-vaunted High Speed 1 may contribute to the domestic bliss of commuters from Ashford to St Pancras who take

what the railway company likes to call the 'Happy Train' to and from work having enjoyed an extra 20 minutes in bed in the morning, but it does little for anyone else.

In spite of risible claims that "a majority of commuters now use the high-speed service", the reality is that anyone travelling from east Kent and the Medway towns is now paying a great deal more to be taken to a station they do not want to arrive at for the privilege of then making a 20-minute Underground journey back to the place they really wanted to get to.

Door-to-door journey times (the times that ministers, the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority and the train-operating company do not understand are what matters) are longer and the fares higher.

What Southeastern euphemistically describes as the 'classic' services that still run, occasionally, into Victoria, Blackfriars and Cannon Street now travel at snail's pace, stop at stations most of us never realised had escaped the Beeching axe and are overcrowded.

Meanwhile, the high-speed trains have been shortened in recognition of the lack of public support for what, with hindsight, has become an unfinished vanity monument to the last government and many of the coaches that the benighted taxpayers of Kent are being compelled to fork out for lie idle and mothballed in goods yards in Faversham and elsewhere.

No doubt to be spirited away to another grand project in due course.

I really would like to applaud

High Speed 1 but suspect I shall be pushing up daisies before any real benefits accrue to those whose interests I try to represent.

There are, for instance, as Network Rail told me very recently, no plans in the pipeline to extend the Javelin service from Ashford through to a Thanet parkway station or even Ramsgate.

No plans to sort out the missing miles of new track, alter bridges, remove level crossings and deliver the 60-minute service from Ramsgate to London that was actually achievable a quarter of a century ago using old trains, old stock and existing signals and track.

So much of our hard-earned boodle has been ploughed into HS1 that there is nothing left over to swiftly upgrade the signals and the points that might, then, at least deliver a swifter service on the Kent Coast line.

And now, in order to, as Southeastern's media apologist so elegantly puts it, "pay for investment", we are facing, following three years of above-average fare increases, a further rise not of the ministerial RPI 3 three per cent, but of 12.8 per cent on tracks that carry passengers to and from one of the areas of highest social deprivation in the country.

And while those travelling faster and at less cost to other more affluent areas of the South East, Kent's rail passengers can only wonder at the stupidity of a system that denies access to a port, a potentially viable regional airport and, of course, to businesses that might wish to invest in east Kent if only they could travel there by rail at speeds in excess of 35mph.

A year on, then, my view is that HS1 has been brought about at inordinate cost and waste, to the benefit of a very few and to the detriment of the many who are paying for it but who wish to use other services.

Dick Turpin would have been amazed, I think, at the gall of those who, at least for the moment, are being allowed to run our railway.

No point in holding up the passengers at pistol-point, Dick. Their pockets have already been emptied by other highwaymen.

**Roger Gale MP (Conservative)**  
Thanet North

### Town knows how to light up Christmas

I really enjoyed going to the switch-on of the Christmas lights in Birchington on Saturday last week.

The Snow Queen and Princess were excellent and it was great to see the kids enjoying themselves on the ice-rink.

I hope that all the Scrooges out there that complained about the noise and disruption caused by the event in the summer now realise that it was all worth it.

Jolly good show, Birchington!

**Mr Davies**  
Birchington



## World Cup tourism bonanza not to be

KENT has missed out on a potential tourism bonanza after England's failed bid to host the 2018 World Cup.

Despite an impressive final push including speeches by David Cameron, Prince William and David Beckham, football's world governing body Fifa decided it was Russia's turn to host the tournament.

And now Visit Kent – responsible for promoting the county to tourists – has been left to wonder what might have been.

“Our proximity to London would have given us a great opportunity to reap the benefits of an English World Cup, and that's why Fifa's decision is such a shame,” said chief executive Sandra Matthews-Marsh.

“Visit Britain had already drawn up an action plan. And even if Holland and Belgium had won we could have used it to attract visitors to Kent. But there's no way with Russia – it's just too far away.”

Sports minister Hugh Robertson, the MP for Faversham and Mid Kent, said he did not understand how England had lost the bid. Mr Robertson attended the announcement ceremony in Zurich, Switzerland, on Thursday last week and said the bid team had done everything in its power to secure the hosting rights.

He said: “The only possible explanation is the one given by [Fifa president] Sepp Blatter, which was wanting to take football to new frontiers.

“Our presentation was widely praised as being the best the executive committee received.”

**'SHAME':** Kent tourism will now miss out on any benefits from World Cup



# Vital services cut while £16.3m is spent on CCTV

■ BY STEVE KNIGHT

CIVIL-RIGHTS campaigners say Kent councils are “obsessed” with CCTV after spending a total of £16.3 million on the technology in just three years.

Pressure group Big Brother Watch has criticised the county's 15 district authorities, including the London boroughs of Bexley and Bromley, claiming the cash would be better spent protecting vital public services.

The total figure for Kent represents 5.1 per cent of the £314.8 million spent by 336 councils throughout the UK on the installation and operation of CCTV.

Big Brother Watch campaign director Daniel Hamilton said: “I think £16.3m is a particularly large amount in light of the massive spending cuts we are experiencing. Councils are cutting services left, right and centre, so to spend that much on CCTV is really excessive.

“The rise of CCTV cameras is a uniquely British obsession led by councils, and councils in Kent are very much part of that obsession.”

According to figures released under the Freedom of Information Act, Bromley council has spent the most on CCTV since 2007, at £1.6m. Outside of London, the highest-spending authority is Canterbury at £1.45m, closely followed by Thanet (£1.4m) and Medway (£1.2m).

Gravesham has spent the least, at £577,940.

“We have no problem with the effective use of CCTV cameras for the right kind of purposes,” said Mr Hamilton. “In Kent we would actively

support it at the ports of Dover and Folkestone because they are very important from a national security point of view. People would rather see more police on the streets, but instead they are being caught on camera an average of 300 times a day, which is a massive invasion of privacy.”

The council that spent the most in the UK at £10.5m was Birmingham, which came under fire last June for using more than 200 cameras in two Muslim areas of the city.

The Big Brother report – entitled The Price Is Wrong – reveals there is about one council-owned CCTV camera for every 1,000 people in the country.

It also points out that the Shetland Islands – with a population of just 22,000 – is home to more cameras than the entire San Francisco Police Department, which serves more than 1.2 million homes.

A Canterbury council spokesman criticised the Big Brother report as a “very shallow” comparison, adding that CCTV cameras provide year-round policing of town centres, help deal with alcohol-fuelled violence and identify people in need of help.

The spokesman added there had also been no effort to analyse the cost of the technology in terms of value for money.

Last May, Archant KOS Media revealed how hundreds of covert operations had been carried out on unsuspecting members of the public by

Kent councils using anti-terrorism laws. They authorised more than 430 actions under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act in two years, but just 28 prosecutions were secured for offences including flytipping, graffiti and underage alcohol sales.

## HIGH COST OF CCTV

Council	Cost
BROMLEY	£1.63m
CANTERBURY	£1.45m
THANET	£1.4m
MEDWAY	£1.22m
TONBRIDGE & MALLING	£1.19m
SEVENOAKS	£1.15m
DOVER	£1.11m
BEXLEY	£1.03m
SHEPWAY	£1.01m
SWALE	£0.98m
MAIDSTONE	£0.98m
ASHFORD	£0.92m
DARTFORD	£0.88m
TUNBRIDGE WELLS	£0.73m
GRAVESHAM	£0.58m
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£16.3m</b>

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## Women Seeking

**YOUNG** black female, likes meals out, theatre, seeks solvent white male 30-47 for genuine relationship. Ashford. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382706

**VICKY** attractive, kind, down to earth, black British, likes travel, writing, reading, cooking, socialising, seeks generous, good man who is family orientated. Essex. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353033

**CURVY** young looking widow loves dancing, nights out, but would prefer cosy nights in with that special male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353483

**SLIM** blue eyed brunette, 48, loving and kind, hopeless romantic, likes pubs, nights in/out seeks similar romantic male to get to know. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353461

**29YR** old female, 5ft 3ins, size 12, long brown hair, seeks childless male, 28-40. Margate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383026

**ATTRACTIVE** black lady, 5ft 6ins, black hair, slim, kissable lips, likes walks, horse riding, go karts, seeks professional white male, 35-45, athletic, 5ft 11ins-6ft. London. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353897

**56YR** old female, 5ft 6ins, GSOH, N/S, likes socialising, cards, dancing, racket ball, seeks male, 50-65, Maidstone. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353773

**DISCO** queen, fun loving, black, attractive serene female, 37, slim, adores music, theatre, reading, nature, seeks genuine, caring gent, 36-49, N/S. London. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333815

**PENNY** slim, sporty, attractive, excellent company, enjoys the outdoors, cycling, walks, sailing, theatre, travel, seeks intelligent, like-minded gent for friendship, maybe more. London. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 351273

**LADY** seeks N/S, clean shaven male to appreciate artistic, romantic, feisty, attractive, slimish, curvy lady of 59 who has not yet joined the wrinkles. Ashford. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 349757

**ELSIE** 5ft 8ins, 70's, OHAC, N/S, likes pub lunches, walks, seeks gent for company, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 348425

**ATTRACTIVE** fun, friendly blonde, seeks fun guy. Sutton. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382502

**WORLD** traveller, fit, young minded female, enjoys life, seeks special interesting male, 60's for genuine relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 349053

**ELEGANT** stylish blonde widow, young 59, very good company, looking for attractive, cultured, older male to share interests, good conversation and who knows. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353455

**LOVING** 38yr old female, honest, romantic, loving, caring, likes swimming, meals out, nights in, seeks male, 45-55 for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 350775

**OLD** fashioned girl, 49, fun, friendly, seeks mature male for fun times, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382192

**41YR** old divorced female, likes astrology, writing, cats, seeks fun loving guy with GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381528

**BARBARA** divorced, active, 5ft 7ins, dark hair/eyes, likes cinema, theatre, meals out, holidays, seeks intelligent male with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 346745

**LATE** 40's female, likes most things, animals, walks, cinema, seeks male 45-59 for good times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 348941

**DAISY** sexy, voluptuous, leggy, blonde, seeks male, 76 plus who knows how to treat a lady. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 348889

**FAYE** N/S, non drinker, lots of love to give, seeks special, genuine, honest male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 349309

**HONEST** caring, genuine female, 44, GSOH, likes meals out, nights in, seeks similar male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381844

**42YR** old female, likes music, dancing, writing, astrology, cats, seeks male with GSOH and similar age. Medway. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 351577

**DEBBIE** mid 50's, attractive, likes dancing, music, cinema, theatre, seeks male for companionship. Maidstone. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 351419

**OUTGOING** 44, bubbly, brunette, likes to keep fit seeks outgoing, sporty male who knows how to enjoy life too. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 347341

**BLACK** female, likes meals out, theatre, seeks solvent white male, 30-47 for genuine relationship. Ashford. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382910

**DENISE** young 50, likes cuddles, nights in/out, seeks male, 37-47 for LTR. Erith. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382864

**41YR** old lady, young at heart, blue eyes, long dark hair, seeks fun loving guy with GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 346537

**37YR** old attractive, happy go lucky blonde with great curves seeks lively older male to share the fun side of life with. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 344161

**5FT** 2ins female, dark hair, medium build, late 40's, GSOH, likes cinema, walks, family life, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 350381

**YOUNG** at heart 50's tall, slim, blue eyed blonde, honest, caring, seeks tall, strong, confident, young at heart male, 50-60. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 350337

**MICHELLE** 39, blue eyed blonde bombshell, beautiful curves, enjoys male company, seeks romantic male who likes the simple things in life too. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 341289

**ATTRACTIVE** outgoing 64yr old lady seeks genuine, retired, solvent, professional male for friendship. Kent. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 351929

**BEAUTIFUL** slim, Oriental babe, 22, seeks older, generous guy 65 plus who knows how to pamper. London. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 348545

**KAREN** 34, sexy leggy brunette who knows there's more to life than just work! WLTm confident professional male for time off meals in London and fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 342525

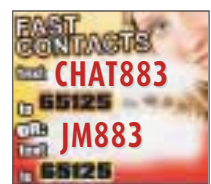
**CLARE** 31, likes swimming, gym, socialising, meals out, sightseeing, seeks male. Ramsgate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353243

**FIT** lady, 65, thinks she's 40, N/S, loves life, seeks genuine gent, 60-70 N/S for happy loving, exciting times. Gravesend. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353111

**CUDDLY** bubbly female, 49, lovely personality, many interests WLTm nice man with similar interests for friendship first. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353453

**COME** live with me. Medic, petite, stunning, long hair, seeks very rich, tactile, generous gent. I will care for you forever. Essex. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 351333

**POLITE** bubbly female, GSOH, seeks gent for caring friendship, likes nights in and socialising. Dartford. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382666



**MATCH** for a Leo. Tall blonde, early 60's, varied interests, likes music, travel, seeks N/S, caring male with GSOH. Ramsgate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 352627

**ALICE** 47, black, seeks older male for love and relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381748

**42YR** old stunning blonde nurse looking to share a bottle of good wine, relax and whatever follows with a tall professional male. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 347345

**TRACEY** 45, sexy Scorpio, tattooed, petite, affectionate, likes music, comedy, cinema, seeks tall, medium build, tattooed, easygoing male, 45-48 with GSOH. Maidstone. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 341045

**YOUNG** 52yr old attractive, slim brunette, N/S, easygoing, enjoys most things, seeks N/S genuine male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 340787

**LINDA** larger lady 61, seeks male for company and time out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 340701

**JANE** 40's, beautiful slim blonde with blue eyes, friendly and eager to please searching for fun and romance with tall, attractive, slim man. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 341319

**DOROTHY** 70's, 5ft, fair hair, likes coast, Chinese food, seeks male for companionship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 342451

**CLARE** 35, caring, outgoing, bubbly, seeks outgoing, friendly male for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 350331

**ADORABLE** beauty, curvy, caring, down to earth, trained lawyer, seeks good man for friendship, companionship, maybe more. London. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 351337

**ANNA** 62, seeks guy, 59-65 with an interest in the simple things in life for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 346707

**62YR** old female, 5ft 4ins, blonde hair, green eyes, medium build, likes walks, keep fit, dancing, gardening, cooking, seeks male, 59-65. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 346705

**HAPPY** go lucky blue eyed blonde, 38 just wants to make someone happy seeks similar kind male for a loving relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 347347

**JANE** 25, fun flirty brunette, loves football/bowling seeks bubbly guy to enjoy exciting adventures and adult fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 340249

**GILL** statuesque beauty, tactile, sun loving brunette, seeks very tall, well built male who's looking for an uncomplicated relationship with a real woman. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 340253

## Men Seeking

**52YR** old businessman seeks female to share good and bad times. Herne Bay. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 354891

**YOUNG** good looking, medium build male, mid 30's, seeks mature, older female for fun and passionate evenings in this cold weather. London/Herts. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 354877

**6FT** 2ins black male, easygoing, down to earth, seeks nice, sexy female. London. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 354841

**5FT** 10ins male, stocky, GSOH, seeks large female, 20-34 for relationship. London. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 354809

**SIMON** tall, well built, good looking, fun, seeks female. Kent. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383150

**SINGLE** professional Indian male, N/S, attractive, 5ft 7ins, medium build, vegetarian, 50, young outlook, seeks white female for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 354781

**ATTRACTIVE** male, 42, OHAC, likes good things in life, seeks happy, fun loving lady. Single mum welcome. Medway. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383136

**ATTRACTIVE** blond, blue eyed male, 47, HIV positive, genuine, sincere, GSOH, OHAC, seeks warm, sincere, Oriental/black/Asian female. Essex. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 354749

**YOUNG** looking 60yr old lady, 5ft 7ins, brown hair/eyes, likes lunching out, seeks slim-medium build female for friendship only. Crawley. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 354713

**ATTRACTIVE** slim, easygoing, African lady, 30's, likes travel, nights in, seeks genuine, solvent white male, 35-45 for no strings relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 346955

**ISABELLE** lovely lady, genuine, honest, loving, caring, 68, N/S, non drinker, slightly disabled, WLTm male for love, companionship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 347305

**LATE** 60's female, widow, slim, 5ft 3ins, young at heart, GSOH, N/S, likes 60's music, likes keep fit, music, boot sales, seeks gent for friendship and outings. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 342195

**NATALIA** attractive, brunette, brown eyes, 40's, N/S, slim, fit, friendly, seeks sincere, N/S, solvent male for love and relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 344393

**CONFIDENT** blue eyed babe, 23, stunning figure, seeks older male to enjoy fun times only. Looks/status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 344207

**JANE** 25, fun flirty brunette, loves football/bowling seeks bubbly guy to enjoy exciting adventures and adult fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 340249

**GILL** statuesque beauty, tactile, sun loving brunette, seeks very tall, well built male who's looking for an uncomplicated relationship with a real woman. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 340253

**WHITE** male, 52, likes cinema, holidays, weekends away, seeks sincere, genuine, black lady, 35 plus for serious relationship. London. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 354543

**HANDSOME** professional male, 35, 6ft 4ins, seeks caring lady to slowly rediscover the finer things in life. Herne Bay. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383098

**IAN** 37, tall, medium build, seeks female, 28-37 for friendship, maybe more. Ashford. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 354539

**MALE** seeks female, 27-30 for fun and friendship. Croydon. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 354465

**MICHAEL** 40's, likes conversation, meals out, theatre, seeks female, 30's for fun and friendship, maybe more. Greenhithe. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 354403

**MALE** likes most things, lonely, seeks caring female to put the sparkle back into life. Canterbury. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 354385

**SOLVENT** slim male, 5ft 10ins, fun, 50's, WLTm similar relaxed lady. Hampshire/Surrey. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353435

**MICHAEL** 5ft 10ins, medium build, seeks sincere female with a bit of naughtiness. Reigate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353363

**NICK** 61, seeks passionate, understanding black/Asian female, 50-65, size 18 plus for LTR. Sutton. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353697

**ATTRACTIVE** blond, blue eyed male, HIV positive, extremely genuine, sincere, GSOH, OHAC, seeks warm, sincere, Oriental/Black/Asian female. Essex. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353693

**MICHAEL** likes dancing, music, socialising, outdoor life, history, pubs, meals out, seeks female for friendship and romance. Canterbury. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353545

**RAMSGATE** male, 5ft 5ins, young 60's, caring, likes travel, countryside, seeks slim-medium build, attractive soul mate for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353529

**SINGLE** male, 34, seeks female for fun times, maybe more. 25-40. Surrey. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382850

**NICE** guy 52, average build, seeks curvy female, 24-45 for LTR. Wembley. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353355

**GENUINE** loving male, 40, seeks similar loving older lady, 40-65 for loving, secure future. Kent/London. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353325

**CURVES** quest! Tall, slim, artist chap, seeks buxom, voluptuous later for movie going and popcorn lunching. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 354331

**PROFESSIONAL** male, N/S, moderate drinker, seeks black/Oriental female, 35-43 for LTR. London. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383058

**MARK** 45, single male, likes cinema, music, seeks female with similar interests. Gillingham. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383044

**6FT** 2ins black guy seeks female for no strings fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383028

**GOOD** times ahead with 50's sensible guy, GSOH, medium build, likes all things cultural, travel, seeks lady with similar interests for friendship, maybe more. NW London. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383024

**TALL** white guy, brown hair/eyes, 49, seeks female with good personality for friendship, maybe more. London. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 354113

**MALE** seeks female for serious relationship. Stratford. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 354095

**DAVID** 60, average build, likes sports, walks, cinema, meals out, nights in, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Herts. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 354065

**BARRY** 47, 6ft, well built, seeks young female to wine and dine. Gillingham. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353231

**KIND** gentleman, well presented, sociable and loving, seeks a genuine lady, for pleasant company, who enjoys fun days out and nice meals in. All calls answered. Ashford area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 351717

**27YR** old male, 6ft 1ins, fun, outgoing, likes nights in/out, GSOH, seeks likeminded female for friendship/relationship. Medway. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382998

**PAUL** 48, 5ft 8ins, medium build, likes nights in/out, cooking, seeks female for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382960

**HANDSOME** good looking male, tactile, seeks female for fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353873

**LOVING** male pillion 40, seeks similar genuine, loving biker lady for rides out and loving, genuine future. Kent. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382950

**NEIL** 6ft 2ins, 46, easygoing, loving, honest, romantic, seeks similar female, any age and looks. Ashford. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353807

**RAY** 64, retired, honest, easygoing, likes outdoor life, seeks female, 60-65 with similar interests for friendship/LTR. Sevenoaks. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353739

**MICHAEL** 44, 5ft 10ins, medium build, seeks naughty female for fun and lots more. Reigate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 354133

**HANDSOME** male, 38, fit, tall, seeks slim female, 18-29 for lasting, caring relationship. Single mum welcome. Orpington. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 351421

**MALE** seeks slim female, 38-48 with varied interests. S London. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353017

**JOHN** 5ft 9ins, black hair, good looking, seeks female. Canterbury. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 352973

**MARK** 44, quiet, likes walks, cinema, meals out, seeks female, 35-44, Maidstone. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382680

Is it you I am dreaming of? Male N/S, 5ft 8ins, likes music, films, seeks attractive, genuine female, 30-40 to share enjoyable times, maybe more. London. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 352401

**MALE** youthful 60's, slim, N/S, mid OGD, likes most things, seeks similar, attractive, petite, kind, genuine female for LTR. East Grinstead. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 352367

**LONELY** male, 69, seeks female, 18-50, no timewasters. Merryworth. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382572

**RUGGED** good looking, dark haired male, young looking 50, fit, charismatic, intellectual, charming, seeks slim, petite female for LTR. Dulwich. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 352999

**DAVE** 45, 5ft 11ins, slim-medium build, seeks loving, caring, kind black lady for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382634

**TONY** 36, likes travel, seeks honest female, 24-35 for fun, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382626

**Gay Seeking**

**ATTRACTIVE** non scene gay hunk, late 20's, seeks older, solvent gent, 65 plus for mutual fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 348543

**TALL** white, good looking guy, London, non scene, straight acting, 29, seeks older, retired gent, 65 plus. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 348543

**54YR** old CD seeks mature, active, older guy in surrounding area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 352975

**CHRISTINE** bi CD 51, medium build, 5ft 8ins, clean shaven, N/S, seeks likeminded CD/TV for fun and friendship. South West. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382516

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## PROPERTY NEWS

### Market is still under pressure as sales fall

HM REVENUE & Customs has revealed a slump in the number of homes sold in October in the UK.

According to its figures, 79,000 homes valued at least £40,000 or more were sold in the month, a fall of 11 per cent on an annual basis.

However, the figure was 1,000 higher than that for September.

The ongoing lack of mortgage availability and economic uncertainty continues to put pressure on the housing market, say analysts.

Recently the British Bankers' Association revealed a further fall in the number of new mortgages approved by the major banks in October.

According to the BBA, the number of new mortgages approved in the month fell to 30,766, down from 31,058 in September – representing the lowest level since March 2009 – when the country was in the midst of its worst recession in decades.

The figures have confounded analysts' expectations of a rise to 31,300 and continue to suggest that the mortgage market will remain subdued over the coming months.

The Council of Mortgage Lenders and the Bank of England have both reported falls in mortgage lending over recent months.

### Lack of rentals homes will lead to price hikes

THE average price of renting a home in Britain is "definitely" set to increase in the short term and could continually rise over the next two years, the property website LettingZone has said.

Mark Garner, founder and director of the group, says that many tenants are choosing to stay in their existing homes in a bid to save money. As a result, fewer properties are coming on to the market.

"Rents are definitely on the way up purely because of the lack of supply," he said.

"There are no new properties coming on the market, so supply and demand [means] rent prices will go up. They won't race away, but they will go up a few per cent definitely."

Mr Garner's comments follow a Rightmove report, which found that 41.7 per cent of British tenants expect rental prices to rise in the coming year.

He went on to say that changes to local housing allowance in 2011 could result in further rental price increases, due to the intensifying "pressure" placed on the private rented sector.



# Father Christmas puts his house up for sale

■ BY NICK AMES

EVERYONE across the country will be hoping that even though Father Christmas has put his house up for sale, he is still going to make Christmas happen.

One of the country's leading Santas has put his home on the market as the festive season draws close.

Geoff Loynes is the owner of Cross Cottage in Bilsington, near Ashford.

He has had an interesting career before that, too – working as an animator on some of the world's best-known cartoons.

Over 50 years, Geoff worked on *Yellow Submarine*, *Watership Down*, *The Wind In The Willows*, the BBC's *Beatrix Potter* series and *When The Wind Blows*.

During his career he met Walt Disney after his father worked at Disney's UK studios, *The Beatles* and the *Jacksons*, having worked on *The Jackson 5* series.

He also has a wide experience of extras work in the film industry, having been involved with *Mr Bean*, *Harry Enfield*, *Silent Witness*, *The Bill* and *EastEnders*.

But his other festive career began when wife Daphne volunteered him many years ago to do a local Father Christmas gig for the play-school in Woodchurch.

Ever since, Geoff has done hundreds of Father Christmas bookings and is one of the UK's top Father Christmases.

He has been the man in the red suit at Jose Carreras's birthday party, the official Santa for the Comet Christmas TV campaign – including having his lifelike cut-out appear in all their stores. The Loynes had one in their bedroom for years until Daphne put her foot down.

Geoff has also made numerous other appearances, such as being the regular Santa for the



**FOR SALE:** Geoff Loynes, one of the country's leading Santas, is selling his cottage home in Bilsington near Ashford

lights-switch-on party for Marylebone high street in London.

The Loynes lent their creative and artistic flair to the refurbishment of a former estate cottage in Bilsington.

There is an array of reclaimed architectural salvage, from carved fretwork and beautiful stained glass to elaborate cast-iron sanitary

ware and old enamel signs.

Many of these old things will be remaining with the cottage once it is sold.

One of the bedrooms, currently used as a study, contains lots of cartoon and film paraphernalia, too, including some of Geoff's original artworks.

"It's just time to move on," said Geoff.

## Charity slams Government housing reform

HOUSING minister Grant Shapps has announced plans for "the most radical reform of social housing in a generation".

Once the changes come into practice, councils will be given decision-making powers over tenancy arrangements. The length of a tenancy will be individually determined, with a minimum duration of two years, in contrast to the lifetime tenancies currently given to all tenants.

Mr Shapps argues that this will free up social-housing space for those who really need it and reduce waiting lists.

However, this has been criticised by Campbell Robb, chief executive of housing and

homelessness charity Shelter, who said: "Very few people go from homeless to self-sufficient within two years."

"The proposal for a minimum of this period shows the Government's naivety in how quickly people are able to get back on their feet."

While the Government is investing £400 million in preventing homelessness, as of April 2011, some new tenants will be faced with rents of up to 80 per cent of the value of local market rents. This will not affect existing social-housing tenants.

The mobility of social-housing tenants is also a key area of focus for Mr Shapps, who is imple-

menting a new National Home Swap Scheme.

He is also scrapping the Tenant Services Authority in favour of a new system of tenant panels, which landlords will be expected to support. The plans represent an attempt to end what Mr Shapps referred to as a "lazy consensus" in social housing, which has seen the number of people on housing waiting lists almost double in 13 years to five million.

"The Government's response to our affordable-housing crisis has seen the poorest and most vulnerable in society penalised again and again in what begins to feel like a deliberate attack."

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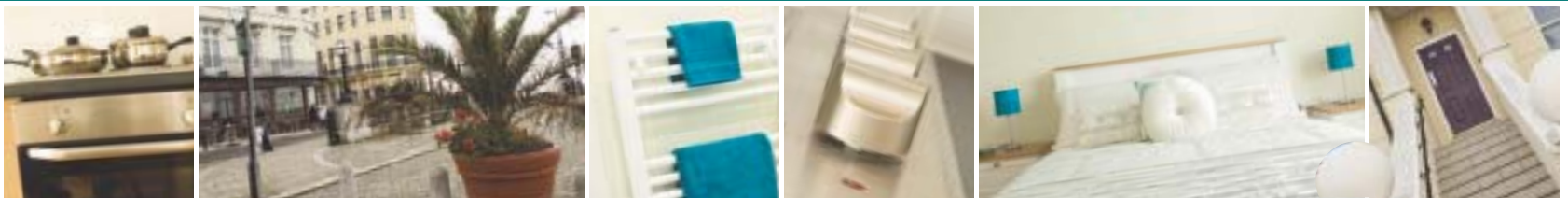
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**PARENT CHAMPIONS**

Parents Consortium, SPACe, Includes Us 2 and For Us 2 are four charities and community groups working across Kent to improve the lives of disabled children and their families.

Each of these charities is now looking to recruit a Parents Champion for 15 hours/week over 8 months for £17,750 p.a. pro rata. The post holders will work with parents and other agencies to improve child care for disabled children. Initially home based with job share/flexible hour options. Timely, independent travel is required to achieve the role.

Contact details for an application pack or to find out more about the post are given below. The closing date for all posts is mid day 10 December.

**Parents Consortium:** Dartford/Gravesend coverage.  
Contact Alan Milner (01322 668501) or e-mail [milnera@parentsconsortium.co.uk](mailto:milnera@parentsconsortium.co.uk)

**Sunrise Parents Advisory Committee:** Tonbridge/Tunbridge Wells/Sevenoaks coverage.  
Contact Peter Nicholls (01892 530330) or e-mail [peter.nicholls@vawk.org.uk](mailto:peter.nicholls@vawk.org.uk)

**Includes us 2:** Ashford/Shepway/Dover coverage.  
Contact Gillian Wells (07970 928425) or Debs Aspland (07832 196 956)  
both on [IncludesUs2@hotmail.com](mailto:IncludesUs2@hotmail.com).  
Interviews 16 December.

**For Us 2:** Canterbury/Thanet/Swale coverage.  
Contact Ivan O'Reilly (01227 741748), or e mail [Ivan.OReilly@childrensociety.org.uk](mailto:Ivan.OReilly@childrensociety.org.uk).  
Interviews early January.

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You need to have good substance misuse knowledge, excellent communication and engagement skills, group work experience and the ability to be creative and innovative. Proven experience of working effectively with young drug and alcohol users is essential.

An application form and job description can be downloaded from [www.kca.org.uk](http://www.kca.org.uk). Alternatively, you can email [recruitment@kca.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@kca.org.uk) or call 01795 590795 and select option three. Please quote reference number 731.

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TITLE SHOT: Scott Woolford will fight Pat McAleese

## Woolford trains for shot at Southern Area title

RAMSGATE boxer Scott Woolford will fight for the Southern Area title in January after being offered a bout against Newmarket's Pat McAleese.

Woolford has lost three of his last four fights, although he secured a points victory over Ryan Clark on his last outing in October.

The 27-year-old, fighting at light-middleweight, turned down several other offers over the past month having just become a father, but said his preparations had now started in earnest for the McAleese contest.

He said: "It's a weight above what I normally box at, but I did the same in my last

### BOXING

fight and I know I've got a great opportunity to win the Southern Area title which I lost out on two years ago.

"Pat's a good amateur, he's come through the amateur ranks and I know a good bit about him. He's strong, he'll come forward and be aggressive so I'm working on a game plan and I started my seven-week training on Monday."

Meanwhile, Woolford's older brother, Vinny, suffered another defeat on the road as

he travelled to Torquay on Saturday only to end up on the wrong end of a points decision.

The light-welterweight, 29, made the long trek to Devon, but after a sluggish start against undefeated Ben Wakeham, he was never able to recover in the closing rounds.

Scott Woolford, who watched his brother at ringside, said: "It's always hard when you go and fight someone on their home ground, but there were no excuses, he just didn't get going in the first three rounds.

"Our view was that he had to knock him out because he just couldn't get out of second gear."

### RUGBY

## Carlier targeting Don's weaknesses

THANET Wanderers head coach Tom Carlier believes his side have the tools to dismantle Wimbledon and win on the road for the first time this season.

Having seen their home game against basement club Tunbridge Wells snowed off on Saturday, Wanderers are now faced with another crucial game this weekend against a Wimbledon side struggling for form near the foot of London 1 South.

"It's an interesting one," Carlier said. "They'll be right up for it, but so will we and we've got some games coming up to really look forward to. We've played them before and they're a very well-organised, balanced side who play attractive rugby, but they have got weaknesses. We know what they are and we'll tailor our game plan to that, to attack them where they're susceptible."

### Substantial

The decision to postpone Saturday's game against the Wells was taken on Thursday night, with the visitors facing travel difficulties and substantial losses if the call had been made any later.

Carlier's squad trained on the St Peter's pitch on Saturday and the rest week will have helped some of his squad members edge closer to fitness, but he was ultimately frustrated to see the game called off.

He said: "It is disappointing because although we've got players out injured, we do have reasonable strength in depth and of our first-choice team, we were probably only missing three players.

"We would have been capable of carrying it off and it would have been good experience for the younger players against a weaker side, particularly with tougher games coming up.

"However, you've got to make the call, especially when these guys have to travel for two or three hours. Then there's the financial implications, when you're paying £500 for a coach and then cancel the day before, you lose your money."

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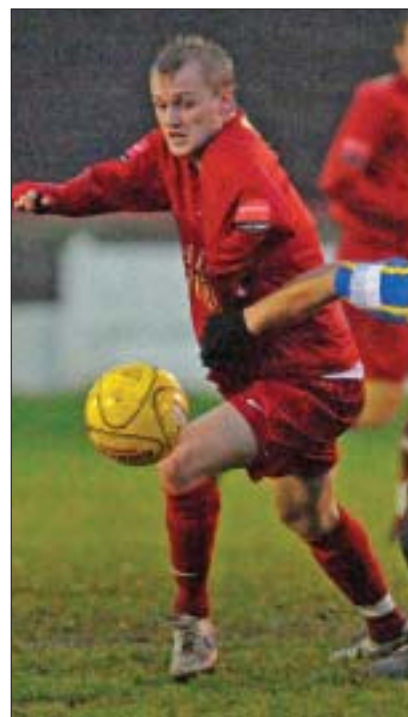
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ON A HIGH: Simon Pettit had his shooting boots on against visitors Eastbourne as his three goals ensured maximum points for the Rams who brought on Paul Axon in the second-half



Pictures DAVID STEWART

# Pettit hits hat-trick as Rams triumph over ten-man Town

### FOOTBALL

■ BY STEVE TERTVET

## Ramsgate 3

Pettit 20, 53, 59

## Eastbourne Town 1

Cooper 75

RAMSGATE reaped the ultimate reward for beating the wintry conditions as Simon Pettit's hat-trick sent them to a morale-boosting win over Eastbourne Town.

While every other Kent club was left without a game on Saturday, the Rams' ground staff and supporters ensured the Southwood pitch was playable and the home players took full advantage.

The visitors had to play most of the game with only ten men after the group of players travelling by train were delayed, but Ramsgate manager Jim Ward insisted his side had still been in a battle.

He said: "They argued enough and they put their foot in enough. I think they had four or five bookings so they were determined to make a game of it. Fair play to Eastbourne, a lot of people said they didn't want to be there, but they came and gave it a go.

"We were excellent with the football we played in those conditions, and we would have beaten anybody. We could have done with scoring a few more goals, but we'll take 3-1.

"We decided we'd go out and play as if it were a normal game. We also thought they would

play 4-4-1, which they did, so it meant the two full-backs could get into the game much more.

"Ryan Harker and Mitchell Sherwood had great games, they got up and down that line all day long."

The Rams enjoyed most of the early possession in driving rain, but it took them until the 20th minute to unlock the visitors' defence.

When Sherwood's cross was only half-cleared, the ball dropped invitingly for Pettit to drive a sweet half-volley into the top corner.

Aaron Beech shot narrowly wide of the far post soon after as Eastbourne struggled to gain a foothold, with Brad Manton handed the thankless task of leading the line alone.

Two goals in six second-half minutes put the

### Ramsgate starting XI



Subs used: Amber (Beech 67 mins), Cliff (Axon 67)

result beyond any doubt, though, as Pettit's right-wing cross crept in to make it 2-0, before the midfielder rose to meet Sherwood's cross with a downward header which gave Kieran Thorp no chance in the Town goal.

"Simon's always played for me," Ward said.

"He went away at the start of the summer, but he realised nobody else can handle him the way I handle him.

"He's a great asset for me, but he doesn't score many goals and to get three in one game, he reckons he's saved me my job."

Ramsgate, who host Merstham on Saturday, travelled to Bognor Regis Town last night (Tuesday). Log on to [www.yourthanet.co.uk](http://www.yourthanet.co.uk) for match details.



# Frustration for O'Connell as Gate are left out in the cold

MARGATE'S unexpected mid-season break has come at exactly the wrong time for manager Iain O'Connell, who remains haunted by his side's recent defensive mishaps.

The Blues' scheduled trip to Carshalton Athletic was one of many games to fall foul of the snow and ice on Saturday, but Margate now face another free weekend while some of their Ryman Premier rivals play in the FA Trophy.

Knocked out by AFC Hornchurch in the second qualifying round, Margate are focusing solely on their league campaign, but by the time they host Hendon on December 18, three weeks will have elapsed since their last outing.

Given the nature of that performance, a 3-3 draw against Tooting & Mitcham which saw the Blues surrender a two-goal lead, it is unsurprising O'Connell wants to get back to action to erase the memories.

He said: "The problem for me is that we haven't got a match this weekend either, so it's going to be three weeks without a game. It's not ideal, but I'm hoping to organise a game this weekend, to see if anyone fancies a friendly."

"Sometimes it could help [having a break], but after what happened in the Tooting game we wanted to play as soon as possible to put things right."

## FOOTBALL

BY STEVE TERVET

"People were saying we must be pleased to get the equaliser, but it really seemed like we lost the game. Everyone wanted to get it out of their system by playing again straight away."

O'Connell's frustrations have been exacerbated by the snowy conditions, with travel the biggest obstacle for the Margate boss, who lives in Southend, and his players based across Kent and further afield.

He said: "We've not been able to do anything and the real problem is just getting everyone together safely because I don't want to put my players in unnecessary danger."

"We've got a lot in Maidstone, some in Dartford a couple in London and they've all had snow."

He added: "I thought we'd be higher in the league by this point. There's some results where we should have got points and there's not been any games where we've got lucky wins."

"I'd have liked us to be higher at this point, but we are where we are."

When the Gate do finally take to the field again they will be without their most in-form player as striker James Pinnock serves a one-game suspension for collecting five yellow cards.



YELLOW PERIL: Margate will miss James Pinnock through suspension

## DARTS

### Lack of form is the end for Shepherd's Worlds

THERE will be no place for Kirk Shepherd at this year's PDC World Darts Championship after the Ramsgate thrower failed to make it through qualifying.

The 24-year-old admitted his form throughout the year had simply not been good enough, but was left to think what might have been after narrowly missing out on qualification through the Players' Championship order of merit.



Shepherd famously reached the 2008 World final after knocking out Peter Manley and Wayne Mardle, but he is set to fall down the money list after losing 5-3 to Kevin Dowling at the qualifier in Derby.

"It's very disappointing because it's been like a second home for me for the last three or four years," he said. "I missed out by one place in the Players' Championship which was really gutting, but I haven't been good enough."

"My form's been patchy and you have to be consistent. I think it went wrong in the middle part of the year; I went over to Las Vegas and thought I'd do well because not many people went, but I didn't win a thing."

"I went there confident, but I knew it would be harder to go through qualifying than through the Players' Championship."

"I'm still enjoying my darts, but it's so disappointing and I'll just start again fresh at the start of next year."

Shepherd will finish 2010 ranked no higher than 42nd in the world and he is certain to drop further, without the chance to match the £15,000 he won for reaching the third round at the Alexandra Palace last year.

## LEAGUE TABLE

(Not including midweek games)

### RYMAN LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	Gd	Pt
1 Sutton United	18	11	5	2	+17	38
2 Kingstonian	16	10	2	4	+12	32
3 Bury Town	17	9	5	3	+5	32
4 AFC Hornchurch	18	8	6	4	+4	30
5 Billericay Town	16	8	5	3	+6	29
6 Lowestoft Town	14	8	4	2	+13	28
7 Cray Wanderers	18	8	4	6	+12	28
8 Carshalton Athletic	16	8	3	5	+11	27
9 Concord Rangers	17	7	5	5	+4	26
10 Tonbridge Angels	17	7	4	6	+3	25
11 Canvey Island	17	6	6	5	+5	24
12 Hendon	13	6	5	2	+11	23
13 Wealdstone	19	6	5	8	-1	23
14 Margate	18	5	6	7	+1	21
15 Tooting & Mitcham	19	5	5	9	-14	20
16 Hastings United	18	4	6	8	-4	18
17 Harrow Borough	15	5	3	7	-4	18
18 Folkestone Invicta	16	3	5	8	-11	14
19 Maidstone United	18	2	7	9	-13	13
20 Aveley	18	3	4	11	-16	13
21 Horsham	16	3	4	9	-17	13
22 Croydon Athletic	18	3	3	12	-24	12

### RYMAN DIVISION ONE SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	Gd	Pt
1 Leatherhead	18	12	4	2	+31	40
2 Metropolitan Police	14	11	3	0	+31	36
3 Whitehawk	18	9	6	3	+19	33
4 Bognor Regis Town	14	10	2	2	+19	32
5 Burgess Hill Town	18	9	5	4	+8	32
6 Sittingbourne	18	8	4	6	+5	28
7 Walton Casuals	18	7	5	6	+1	26
8 Godalming Town	17	8	2	7	-13	26
9 Merstham	18	6	7	5	-1	25
10 Faversham Town	18	6	6	6	-1	24
11 Worthing	16	6	5	5	+11	23
12 Ramsgate	20	6	5	9	-4	23
13 Chippstead	18	6	5	7	-5	23
14 Eastbourne Town	19	5	7	7	-4	22
15 Dulwich Hamlet	17	6	3	8	0	21
16 Fleet Town	15	6	3	6	-4	21
17 Chatham Town	18	6	3	9	-9	21
18 Walton & Herstham	17	5	3	9	-6	18
19 Whyteleafe	18	5	3	10	-12	18
20 Corinthian-Casuals	18	4	3	11	-12	15
21 Whitstable Town	17	2	5	10	-13	11
22 Horsham YMCA	18	3	1	14	-41	10

### FIXTURES (Saturday):

Ryman Division One South: Ramsgate v Merstham

## Fixture backlog won't put dampener on fine season

### SUNDAY LEAGUE

BUSINESS is booming in the Thanet Sunday Football League despite the temporary hiccup caused by a week of widespread snow and ice across the region.

League bosses face a fixture headache after last weekend's postponements, but chairman Ernie McGarvey insists the overall picture is bright throughout the five divisions.

While Saturday work commitments are affecting the availability of players in the Ryman League, the Sunday league has benefited and this season's numbers are healthy.

McGarvey said: "We must have around 1,600 players registered and because a lot of people are working on Saturdays now, more are playing on Sundays. It's been an excellent season so far and it's just a shame this weather is mucking us about at the moment."

"It certainly will cause a lot of disruption because at the moment we're at least 60 games behind, but we're hopeful of catching up at the end of the season. We don't like having to play evening fixtures, but we may have to do that. Sometimes we play extra competitions for teams who have already fulfilled their fixtures, but we probably won't be able to do that this season."

With most sides having reached the halfway point of their season, Active FC lead the way in an increasingly competitive Premier Division. The leaders have named Whitstable Town striker Dave Cory among their squad this season, while the Ramsgate pairing of Danny Twyman and Zack Thomas are regulars for second-placed Albys United.



IN THE RUNNING: TSFL chairman Ernie McGarvey thinks the league is 60 games behind schedule

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